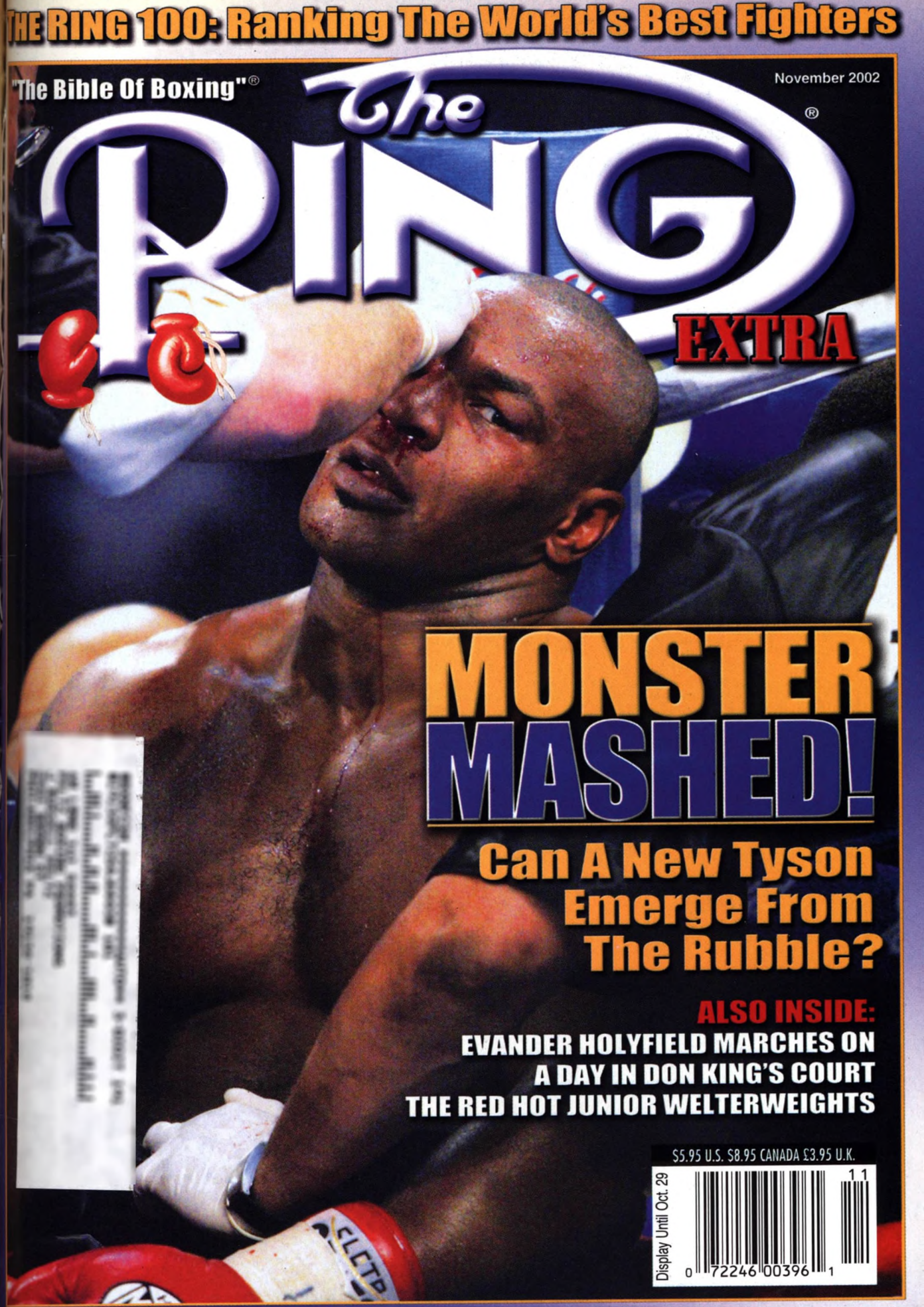
THE RING 100: Ranking The World's Best Fighters

"The Bible Of Boxing"®

November 2002

The RING®

EXTRA



MONSTER MASHED!

Can A New Tyson Emerge From The Rubble?

ALSO INSIDE:

EVANDER HOLYFIELD MARCHES ON

A DAY IN DON KING'S COURT

THE RED HOT JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

$5.95 U.S. $8.95 CANADA £3.95 U.K.

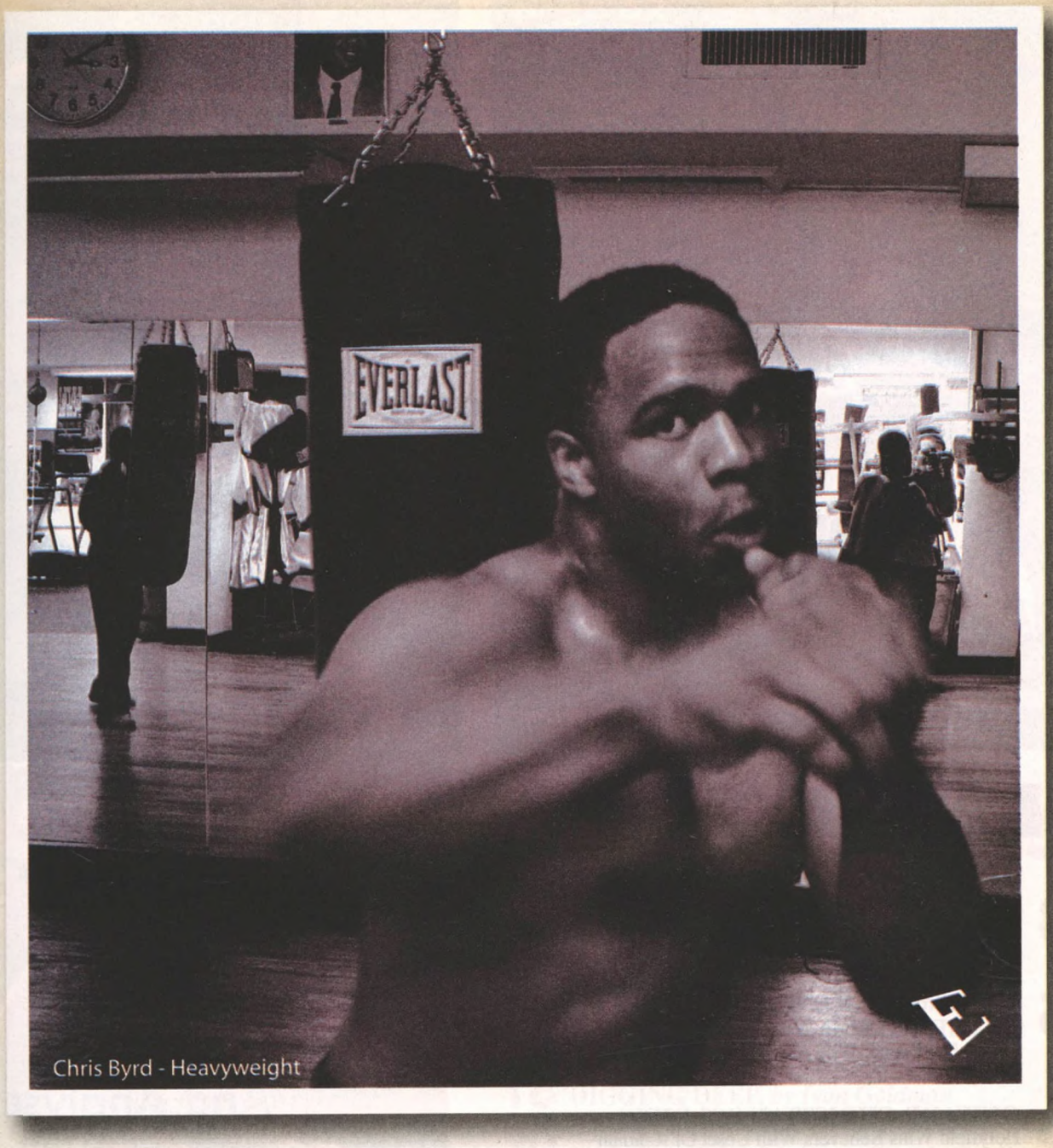
Display Until Oct. 29

0 72246 00396 1 11

The HEART & SOUL *of* BOXING

HBO®

www.hbo.com/boxing ©1999 Home Box Office, a Division of Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P. All rights reserved. ® Service mark of Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P.



BOXING EQUIPMENT
EVERLAST
EST.1910
BRONX, NEW YORK

everlast.com

The RING EXTRA

CONTENTS

November 2002

FEATURES

28 **MONSTER MASHED!**
Can A New Tyson Emerge From The Rubble?
By Nigel Collins

35 **THE RING 100: RANKING THE BEST FIGHTERS IN THE WORLD**
Pound-For-Pound, Who Are Boxing's Finest?

56 **ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIER**
Holyfield Wins Believers With Upset Of Rahman
By Eric Raskin

62 **INSIDE THE KING'S COURT**
THE RING Spends A Day With DK
By Joe Santoliquito

68 **THE JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT DIVISION**
It's The Best In Boxing … Tell Your Friends!
By William Dettloff

74 **THE RING UPDATE: BILLY JOINER**
"I Didn't Get A Night's Sleep For 17 Years"
By Pete Ehrmann

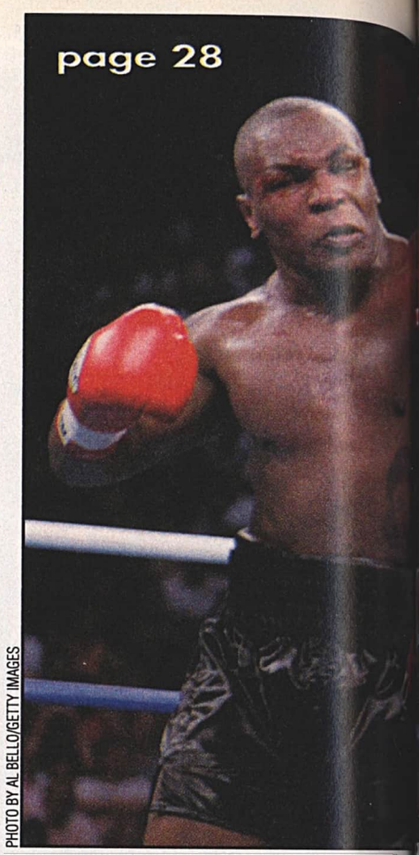


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

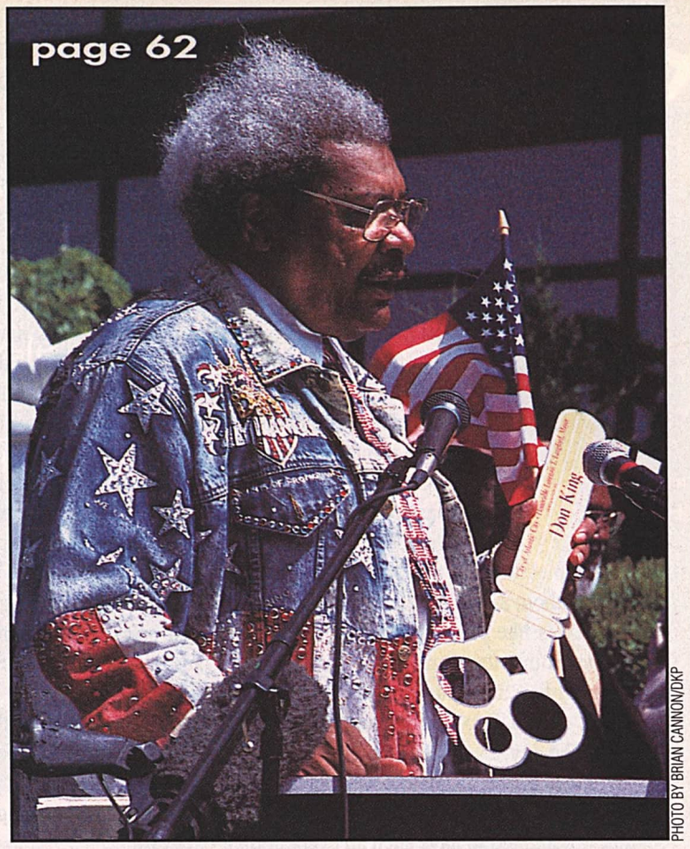


PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

Cover: *Mike Tyson by Al Bello/Getty Images*
Cover Design: *Walt Schmidt*

Ringside Reports And Analyses

84 FIGHTER OF THE MONTH & RINGSIDE REPORTS

Ratings

13 RATINGS ANALYSIS

14 THE RING'S INTERNATIONAL RATINGS

94 ALPHABET RATINGS

DEPARTMENTS

6 RINGSIDE, *by Nigel Collins*

8 ROUND ONE

16 RYAN OUT LOUD, *by Jeff Ryan*

18 DIGGING DEEP, *by Ivan Goldman*

20 BEING THERE: Mohegan Sun, *by Joe Santoliquito*

22 CAMERA CLICKS

24 NEW FACES: Super Middleweight Chad Dawson, *by Joe Santoliquito*

84 WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS

96 THE RING CLASSIC: MICHAEL CARBAJAL: THE FIRST MILLION-DOLLAR FLYWEIGHT?, *by Jeff Ryan*

102 THE A, B, C, AND DEAS OF BOXING, *by Tommy Deas*

104 COME OUT WRITING

106 LOOKING AHEAD, *by Eric Raskin*

RINGSIDE

Now that the Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson fight is over, not only can we can all breathe a sigh of relief, a "whoopee" might be in order.

Going in, I knew the most important thing for boxing was that nothing happen in Memphis that would disgrace the sport. Like most everybody else, a Tyson freakout was my main concern, but I also feared some sort of scandal surrounding either the scoring or refereeing of the bout, because it was also crucial that there was a clear-cut outcome. Call me greedy if you want, but the third thing I wanted was a great fight.

Okay, so it wasn't a great fight, but in a situation as potentially disastrous as this, two out of three isn't bad. And everybody involved in pulling the fight together, including the suits at HBO and Showtime, deserves to be congratulated.

Even without a great fight, it was a splendid night for boxing. Both fighters comported themselves like professionals and the pay-per-view sales set a new revenue record, which means that there are still plenty of boxing fans out there willing to shell out big bucks, providing the right fights are made.

Credit should also go to Memphis for taking a chance on a fight that Las Vegas spurned. The city, its citizens, and the business community poured on the southern hospitality, making everybody feel welcome. Unlike Vegas, where the jaded populace often ignores big fights, the folks in Memphis really got into the spirit of things, and seemed genuinely delighted to have such an event in their backyard.

I was also hoping that after everything went so smoothly, some of the media that had predicted everything from the fight not coming off to outright anarchy would have the guts to say they were wrong. But I guess that was even more unrealistic than hoping for a great fight.

What a bunch of jerks!

***

In the September issue of THE RING EXTRA, Managing Editor Eric Raskin, Associate Editor Joe Santoliquito, and myself put our heads together and came up with two lists: the 10 best active referees and the 10 worst. Naturally, our selections stirred up a bit of debate, but that's to be expected and, if truth be told, one of the reasons we did it.

But since the lists were published, I've had reason to question one of our choices on the 10-best side of the ledger. Eddie Cotton ended up number 10 among a very select group. In retrospect, after watching his work in the Lewis-Tyson fight, I don't think Cotton should have made the cut.

It was fine for Cotton to warn Lewis for holding, and he was technically within his rights to penalize Lewis for leaning on Tyson after Lennox drilled him with a right in the fourth, but it was excessive. Cotton also missed a very low left hook from Tyson in the seventh, and called a knockdown, when none had occurred, in the eighth. Thankfully, his mishandling of the bout didn't affect the outcome.

Exactly how bad was Cotton? It depends on whom you ask, but I heard no praise for his work, just criticism.

"The referee was trying to stop Lennox from fighting a tall man's fight," said Lewis' trainer, Emanuel Steward. "Even on the last knockdown, he was in the process of trying to take another point from Lennox."

HBO's Larry Merchant simply said, "Lewis beat Eddie Cotton, too."

I'm not sure what Cotton's problem was, but it certainly wasn't a performance worthy of a man I once considered among the best in the business.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

Vol. 81, No. 12 November 2002

The RING

THE RING
"The Bible Of Boxing"

NATHANIEL S. FLEISCHER
Founder
(1888-1972)

STUART M. SAKS
Publisher

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ..... Nigel Collins
MANAGING EDITOR ..... Eric Raskin
ASSOCIATE EDITOR ..... Joseph Santoliquito
SENIOR ART DIRECTOR ..... Walt Schmidt
ART DIRECTORS ..... Joseph Kalman
Greg Stevens
Natalie Burke
PRODUCTION MANAGER ..... Bethany Lawler
PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR ..... Cliff Campo
IMAGING DIRECTOR ..... Michael Kilgore
ASSISTANT EDITORS ..... Dave Lenker
Brandi Mankiewicz
SENIOR WRITER ..... William Dettloff

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
David Tyler

NATIONAL CIRCULATION MANAGERS
Robert Nucci
Rose Ann Adolfi
Dave Hagman

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Vincent Bellissima
(215) 643-6385
vbellissima@kappapublishing.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Dianne Weber

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43306-8121
(815) 734-1212

The Ring (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 81, No. 12 (Extra, November 2002), is published monthly, with an additional issue in December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Periodicals postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: The Ring, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121. Single copy price $5.95 ($8.95 in Canada, £3.95 in U.K.). Subscription price $59.64 in the U.S., $69.24 in Canada and remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage.

The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2002 London Publishing Co. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable Distribution Services Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.

Printed in U.S.A.

THUNDERBOX is in the House!

A Sizzling High Stakes Struggle for Dominance Inside and Outside the Boxing Ring!

Big Time Fights
$$ for Every Punch
Winner Takes All

THUNDERBOX

Hot Music - Hot Girls

Who's the Baddest Man on the Planet?

See Boxing Like You've Never Seen it Before!

The fight intensity heats up with the Thunderbox Power Punch Dollar System
- every punch adds to your Bank and a knockout also wins you your opponent's Bank -

The Countdown Begins to Find out Who will Stand Atop the World of THUNDERBOX

watch the drama unfold on tv and on-line

thunderbox.com

THUNDERBOX IS BREAKING THE RULES!

A Behind the Scenes Power Struggle for Cash and Worldwide Boxing Dominance

Musical Performances By Rock and Hip Hop's Hottest

Presented By CKP

for info contact
631-726-2100

On TV Now - Check Your Local Listings

ROUND ONE

A FINE ALTERNATIVE TO MEMPHIS

The 13th annual induction ceremony of the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York, had a distinct international flavor. The living inductees included Australia's Jeff Fenech, Mexico's Pipino Cuevas, Sweden's Ingemar Johannson, and England's Reg Gutteridge.

Even some of the weekend's special guests came from afar, as Nino Benvenuti (Italy), Sir Henry Cooper (England), and Alexis Arguello (Nicaragua) were among the legends who chose a trip to Canastota over a trip to that other boxing event going on in Memphis at the same time.

Fenech, a three-division champion after just 20 bouts, called his induction the "pinnacle of his career" and added, "I love the sport of boxing and I think I owe more to you fans than anybody else because without the fans there is no boxing."

PHOTO BY PAT ORR

Cuevas, Fenech, and Gutteridge show off their rings

Cuevas, a devastating left-hook puncher, won the WBA welterweight title at the age of 18 in 1976 and made 11 successful defenses before losing the crown to Thomas Hearns. "A boxing career is a career full of sacrifices," said Cuevas. "But I believe it was worth all of those sacrifices to be here today with all of you."

Johannson, who won the heavyweight title from Floyd Patterson in 1959, was unable to attend due to poor health.

The posthumous inductees of the Class of 2002 were Victor Galindez from the modern era, Benny Bass, The Dixie Kid, Sixto Escobar, Harry Harris, and Owen Moran in the old-timers category, Charley Mitchell, Young Dutch Sam, and John C. Heenan in the pioneers category, Irving Cohen, Aileen Eaton, and Sam Silverman as non-participants, and Damon Runyon and Jimmy Cannon as observers.

One of the more touching moments of the weekend came when parade grand marshals Tom Orlando, a New York City firefighter, and Ron McNair, a New York City police officer, were given a rousing standing ovation by the boxing legends and fans who witnessed the induction ceremony on June 9. Both men aided in the rescue and evacuation of civilians at the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, 2001.

Gutteridge, a veteran boxing journalist who served in the British army and landed on the beaches of Normandy during the D-Day invasion of World War II, commented on the terror attacks and subsequent allied invasion of Afghanistan, saying, "The first people in to start the kick-ass is us with the Americans. We want to be with you."

Ultimately, the festivities marked a return to glory for many of the fighters in attendance. Former junior welterweight champ and Hall of Famer Aaron Pryor summed up the weekend best when he said, "Have you ever been forgotten? It's not a good feeling. But in Canastota, you are never forgotten."

—Robert Cassidy

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

A thirtysomething writer enters the Golden Gloves, and in the course of training for his big moment between the ropes falls in with a crazy-quilt collection of characters and discovers that boxing is the ultimate test of character and even a metaphor for life itself! Variations of that theme are as hackneyed as two boxers trying to outstare one another during the referee's instructions.

That's what I thought, anyway, until along came *The Gloves: A Boxing Chronicle* (North Point Press, hardcover, 331 pages, $24). Robert Anasi's account of his trials and triumphs as a member of New York City's "Supreme Team," a nomadic amateur tribe governed by the piratical Milton LaCroix, is no fish-out-of-water, dilettante discourse on what it's like to dip a toe into the roiling waters of boxing. It is a shrewd, entertaining, and insightful mosaic of a book that should appeal to anyone who appreciates deft writing and a passion for the ring.

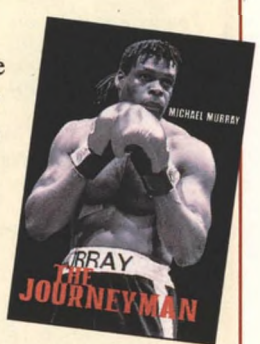
The notion popular with some sportswriters that amateur boxing is a shining counterpoint to the squalid sewer of the professional game takes a deserved standing eight-count or two here, but that's just a welcome by-product and not the focus of Anasi's reportage. Neither are the pros, but a long chapter on former welterweight contender Curtis Summit along the lines of one of Studs Terkel's oral histories is also engrossing and superb.

Unlike too many books of this genre, you don't get the feeling here that Anasi is slumming, although it's apparent he suffers from a nagging case of white liberal guilt. But only occasionally is it intrusive, and these moments are nowhere near as illuminating as his ruminations on such weightier matters as what getting punched in the head was doing to his brain.

"How much brain function was I willing to lose to a sport?" Anasi writes. "Had I increased my chances of getting Alzheimer's? It's one thing to strain your arm throwing curves or blow out your anterior cruciate ligament on the basketball court, quite another to dim the light of your mind. I felt as if I were playing a game of Russian roulette in which I wouldn't find out for a decade if the gun had gone off."

Anasi, who hopes for "the smallest, the lightest, the weakest opponent I can, a pushover, a paraplegic, anything to get through those terrible three rounds," has written a highly recommended book that makes everyone who ever stepped through the ropes—even those of us with lifetime records of 0-1—stand a little taller.

—Pete Ehrmann



With a record through 2001 of 16 wins and 26 losses, British heavyweight Michael Murray more than qualifies as that which he proclaims himself in *The Journeyman* (Mainstream Publishing, 191 pages, hardcover, £14.99). Whether he deserves to call himself a writer depends on if one is a disciple of the old-fashioned "who, what, where, when, why, and how" precepts of Journalism 101, or a devotee of the New Age stream of consciousness type of narrative in which the least moments are imbued with the most significance in the multi-layered dimensions of our understanding as we struggle to assign meaning to the pre-determination of our fate as celestial beings.

I don't know what the latter means, actually, which is the same handicap I labored under plowing through Murray's cosmic, double-dipped-in-karma ruminations on his life and career. It has been, I hasten to state, a worthy career, the statistical log notwithstanding. Murray and all the noble warriors like him who often take fights at the drop of a hat deserve our approbation. They usually are far more interesting than the carefully marketed, well-connected prospects for whom they are career steppingstones.

But as someone who finds simple, straightforward prose as appealing as a well-timed three-punch combination, I found myself boggled over and over again by Murray's literary style and aspirations ("I hope … that my words grab your mind by the scruff of its neck, strangle ignorance, and spread like a virus by word of mouth. I've written in a tongue I hope will cross blue seamless skies and cover continents"). My mind's neck suffers whiplash encountering such sentiments, such as Murray's description of his British title fight against Herbie Hide: "We were two boys who obeyed violence to gratify our unknown senses, while dragging the chains of our lives in weary hunger and murderous thoughts. We assumed our power, dictated swift fists, and without fear unfolded our obscure vision … We strove in battle, in an accepted conflict with our revolving shapes, silent in our activity. I never saw the final punch and it left behind a self-contemplating shadow occupied with an enormous labor. The draught of light drew confusion into my indefinite space. I was forced to tend to my once roaring flames, that I might quench my own despair. I had to locate the center where, if suspended, I could stand and throw a stone into the dismal abyss to measure out my ordered space."

He means he was knocked out. I looked it up in the record book.

Murray devotes a whole chapter to his losing fight against Zeljko Mavrovic. He says it went 11 rounds; the record book says only four. But maybe in the Zen world everything is so freighted with meaning, events take twice as long as in earth time.

Not that there aren't truly enlightening aspects of the book. For instance, we learn that the ring is a much safer place to be with Brian Nielsen than an automobile.

Michael Murray is obviously an intelligent person whose efforts between the ropes deserve honor and respect. But his footwork on the printed page is way over this tired palooka's head.

—Pete Ehrmann

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
5-24-02	Angel Vazquez W 10 Marcos Licona	ESPN2	f	B-	C	B-
We might've given Licona the edge; either way, Vasquez a study in talent squandered						
5-24-02	Calvin Davis KO 7 Tipton Walker	ESPN2	c	C	B	B
Davis, a pure puncher, looks ready for a top-10 guy						
5-25-02	Antonio Diaz W 10 Rogers Mtagwa	Show	f	C-	C+	C
Mtagwa a little crude for skilled Diaz, who did pretty much what he wanted						
5-25-02	Joachim Alcine W 12 Marcos Primera	Show	jm	C+	B+	B+
Fading late and decked in last round, Alcine survives to get nod; Primera should have started sooner						
5-26-02	DaVarryl Williamson KO 3 Dale Crowe	FOXSN	h	C	B	B-
Let's keep an eye on Williamson; we don't know how far he'll go, but he can punch						
5-26-02	Robert Davis W 10 Terrance Lewis	FOXSN	h	C	A-	C-
Davis gets revenge for last year's thrilling knockout loss; no offense Robert, but we liked that one better						
5-31-02	Darrell Woods KO 7 Tony Badea	ESPN2	jm	C-	B+	B+
If Badea could punch, he might have ended it early; good slugfest regardless						
5-31-02	James Toney KO 10 Michael Rush	ESPN2	c	B	C-	C+
The best Toney we've seen in a while; how about that fight with Jirov already?						
6-1-02	Ricky Hatton W 12 Eamon Magee	Show	jw	B	B+	B
Hatton rises from first-round knockdown to dominate with body attack; is it time for a contender yet?						
6-1-02	Evander Holyfield Tech. Win 8 Hasim Rahman	HBO	h	A-	B	C+
We're glad it ended when it did; another round and that thing on Rahman's head might have sprouted hair and teeth						
6-4-02	Emmanuel Clottey W 10 Hicklet Lau	ESPN	jw	C-	B-	C
You have to hand it to Lau; he gets whipped all night and he's still wearing that cocky smirk at the end						
6-4-02	Derek Bryant KO 4 Robert Wiggins	ESPN	h	C	A-	B-
Pretty good heavyweight scrap, especially for a pair of southpaws						
6-7-02	Joe Mesi KO 5 Talmadge Griffis	ESPN2	h	C+	C	C
Quote from Mesi: "He's just not at the same skill level yet." Quote from us: "Are you kidding?"						
6-8-02	Alex Arthur KO 5 Nikolai Eremeev	Show	jl	C	B-	B-
If Arthur missed a right hand in five rounds, we didn't see it						
6-8-02	Scott Harrison KO 6 Victor Santiago	Show	f	B-	B+	B
Harrison all over game Santiago from opening bell; this guy can fight a little						
6-8-02	Joel Casamayor KO 8 Juan Arias	PPV	l	A-	C+	C
Casamayor not overly impressive in first outing since loss to Freitas						
6-8-02	**Manny Pacquiao KO 2 Jorge Eliecer Julio**	**PPV**	**IBF jf**	**A**	**C-**	**B+**
Yes, Julio looked shot, and yes, Pacquiao looked awesome anyway						
6-8-02	**Lennox Lewis KO 8 Mike Tyson**	**PPV**	**World h**	**A+**	**B**	**B-**
Tyson took his beating like a man; for that you have to take your hand off to him						
6-8-02	Jeremy Williams W 10 Ron Guerrero	h	FOXSN	C-	C	C
Not a great sign for Williams that crude Guerrero was able to last the distance						
6-11-02	Angel Manfredy W 10 Antonio Ramirez	l	ESPN	B-	C-	C+
Manfredy's a good fighter a little on the downside; what's changing his style going to do for him?						
6-12-02	Julio Garcia W 12 Kirino Garcia	m	FOXSN	C-	B+	C+
Garcia too sharp and strong for Garcia; and, oh yes, fine job of refereeing by Garcia						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN—Fox SportsNet; Uni—Univision; Tel—Telemundo

MINING QUARRY

Back in March 1995, this writer conducted a lengthy interview with former heavyweight contender Jerry Quarry at the home of his brother James in Hemet, California. Because Jerry was in the throes of pugilistica dementia, a condition brought on in no small part from boxing, James did much of the talking. Jerry sat through the interview in a childlike trance, interjecting often with varying degrees of lucidity. The next day I visited another brother, Mike, in nearby La Mirada. He had been a journeyman light heavyweight who was also suffering from the early onset of the brain damage.

The interviews were as compelling as they were disturbing. All of the brothers described an itinerant childhood that was not unlike that of the fictional Joad family in *The Grapes Of Wrath*. Under the iron thumb of their father Jack, the Quarry brothers and their five siblings traveled by rail and car to labor camps throughout California. They went where the crops were, working long and hard, often under the unrelenting sun, for what amounted to pocket change. It was a hardscrabble existence that produced hardscrabble men. Later, when Jerry and Mike became professional fighters, what they lacked in skills they more than made up for with desire.

Jerry became perhaps the most popular heavyweight in history to never win a title. By virtue of his skin color he was a "Great White Hope," although he always insisted he abhorred that moniker. He never quite adjusted to life after boxing, even before the dementia set in, and he died in January '99 at the age of 53. At the time of his passing, he had been living in a semi-vegetative state for quite some time.

I reflected on all of this when I visited his grave in Shafter (California) Memorial Park, 20 miles north of Bakersfield, in May. On the stone is a photo of him, his hands wrapped, his ruggedly handsome face looking out into eternity. Etched under his name are "The Great White Hope" and "The Best Of All Times." As I stood under the unrelenting sun, a long freight train roared down the tracks adjoining the cemetery. I imagined a vagabond family aboard, headed for a crop and the precarious stability of some temporary work. Directly across the street was a huge field filled with what looked like endless rows of apple trees, all of which seemed to be a few weeks away from being picked.

I couldn't help but be struck by one particular irony, as well as a bit of moral ambivalence. Here lay Quarry: Hollywood handsome, childhood idol to millions, and challenger to Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, and a veritable who's who of champions and contenders. For much of his life he seemed to have it all, only to have the fickle finger of fate hurt him even more than the fists of his opponents ever did. His boxing career had taken him all over the world, brought him an abundance of squandered riches, and no shortage of fame, glory, and idolatry. But in the end, he wound up not even a few steps away from where it all began.

—Robert Mladinich

PHOTO BY ROBERT MLADINICH

Quarry's gravestone in Shafter, California

TUF-WEAR®
WWW.TUFWEAR.COM

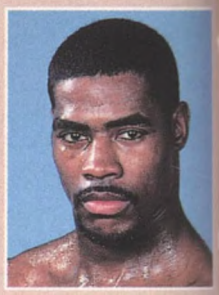
TUF-WEAR is BACK and Tougher Than Ever!

TUF-WEAR equipment available now through TITLE Boxing. For your *free* TITLE catalog call
1.800.999.1213

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Matthews: Sacked by the Post

Arizona Senator **John McCain** introduced legislation in late-May called the Professional Boxing Amendments Act of 2002, proposing a centralized governing body to oversee the sport nationwide. The United States Boxing Administration would be headed by an administrator appointed by the President, with the consent of the Senate. The USBA would seek to put all state and tribal commissions on the same page and would oversee licensing issues, but would not necessarily create its own rankings and champions … Recent weeks have seen a wild merry-go-round of firings and hirings in boxing, with perhaps the most interesting involving **Ivaylo Gotzev**. The Phoenix, Arizona-based Gotzev was fired in mid-May by cruiserweight titlist **Vassiliy Jirov**, whom he had managed since "The Russian Tiger" turned pro. A couple of weeks later, Gotzev, bitter over a termination he felt was the result of Jirov's wife trying to take control of the fighter's career, announced he would be managing **James Toney**, a possible upcoming opponent for Jirov … Junior middleweight titleholder **Fernando Vargas** axed assistant trainer **Roger Bloodworth** in mid-May. Bloodworth had served underneath head trainer **Eduardo Garcia** since the start of Vargas' pro career, but he's been replaced by former 130-pound beltholder **Roberto Garcia**, Eduardo's son … Longtime *New York Post* boxing scribe **Wallace Matthews** was dubiously fired by the newspaper in mid-May. After the *Post* ran a story insinuating baseball player **Mike Piazza** was gay, Matthews wrote a column ripping the newspaper for showing a lack of journalistic professionalism by publishing the information without any proof of it being true. The higher-ups at the paper refused to run Matthews' column as it was, so he released it to an Internet site instead, and was subsequently canned … **Gary Shaw** resigned in mid-June as chief operating officer of promotional company Main Events, stating that it was an "amicable parting," despite reports that there was a power struggle going on with CEO **Kathy Duva**. Shaw, who worked with Main Events for 2½ years, said he plans to start his own promotional company … Heavyweight **Shannon Briggs** was arrested and charged with one count of making a felony threat in late-May, stemming from alleged threats made toward a former girlfriend in September 2001. Details of the threat were not released … It has not been a pleasant retirement so far for **Pernell Whitaker**. In early-June, Whitaker was convicted in his native Virginia of felony cocaine possession and faces up to 10 years in prison. Last August, Whitaker was found in possession of the drug, but was granted first-offender status. He then overdosed on cocaine in March, violating what was essentially a probationary period. He was scheduled to be sentenced in early-August … Former featherweight king **Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson** announced his retirement in mid-June, having lost his last two fights by knockout. Johnson, who defeated **Manuel Medina** for the IBF belt in 1993 and made 11 successful defenses over a four-year reign, finished with a record of 51-10-2 (29), with eight of the defeats coming in his last 15 fights … Former middleweight contender **Doug Demmings** of St. Paul, Minnesota, died from cancer recently at the age of 50. Demmings, who fought the likes of **Marvin Hagler**, **Alan Minter**, **Sugar Ray Seales**, and **John Mugabi**, ended his 10-year pro career in 1983 with a record of 31-12-1 (14).



Johnson: Former feather titlist bows out

THE PUNCHLINES

"Right after I knock out [David] Santos, the guy I want next is [Dan] Goossen. This is a guy who is asking for an ass kicking!"

—IBF junior lightweight titleholder Steve Forbes, taking aim at his former promoter

"I might just fade into bolivian."

—Mike Tyson, choosing an interesting place to descend toward when interviewed by ESPN following the Lennox Lewis fight

AL KRATZER'S VIEW

"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Middleweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
3. **MARCO ANTONIO BARREA**
   Featherweight
4. **VERNON FORREST**
   Welterweight
5. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Middleweight
6. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Welterweight
7. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Lightweight
8. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
9. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Junior Middleweight
10. **LENNOX LEWIS**
    Heavyweight

(For period ended June 18, 2002)

HEAVYWEIGHTS: Mike Tyson drops from second to ninth following his eighth-round knockout loss to world champion Lennox Lewis. This allows Chris Byrd (third last issue) to advance to second. Also moving up is Evander Holyfield, who progresses from sixth to third on the strength of his win over Hasim Rahman, who falls from fourth to eighth. The major shakeup also advances Kirk Johnson (fifth last issue) to fourth, John Ruiz (seventh last issue) to fifth, Jameel McCline (eighth last issue) to sixth, and David Tua (ninth last issue) to seventh.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No changes.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: No changes.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Thomas Tate slips from fifth to seventh due to his one-sided decision loss to second-ranked Sven Ottke. Tate's demotion boosts Charles Brewer (sixth last issue) and Eric Lucas (seventh last issue) to fifth and sixth, respectively.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: No changes.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Raul Balbi (fifth last issue) slides to seventh after losing his rematch to fourth-ranked Leonard Dorin in much more convincing fashion than their previous meeting. This allows Angel Manfredy to move from sixth to fifth, and Juan Lazcano to advance from seventh to sixth.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: No changes.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: No changes, but the June 22 rematch between Marco Antonio Barrera (currently number one) and Erik Morales (number two) will, barring a draw, decide whom THE RING recognizes as the 126-pound world champion.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: Michael Brodie (sixth last issue) is now campaigning as a full-fledged featherweight and is, therefore, gone from the 122-pound rankings. Everyone below moves up a spot, and Agapito Sanchez returns at number 10.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No changes.

POUND-FOR-POUND: Lewis' dominant performance and clean knockout of Tyson enables him to return to the P-4-P list at the 10th position. Inactive Ricardo Lopez (10th last issue) departs to make room for Lewis. ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended June 18, 2002

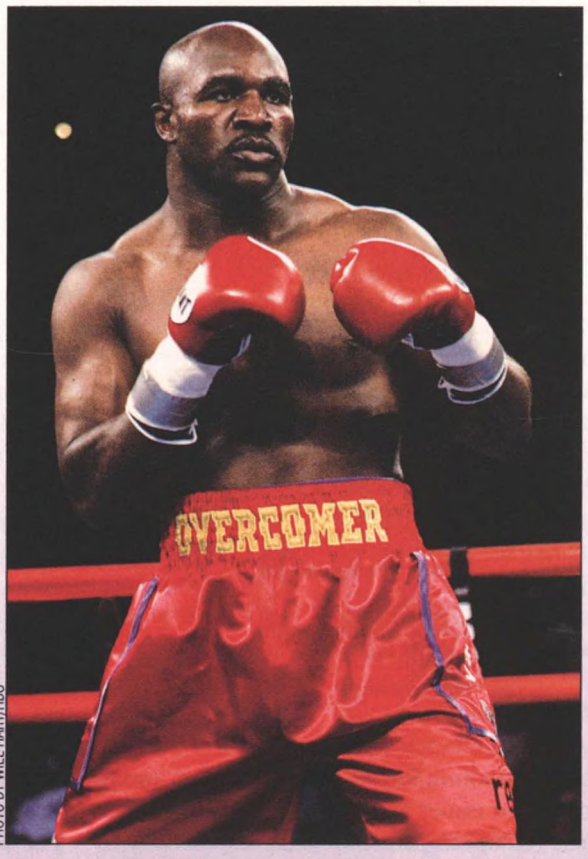


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Evander Holyfield ascended three spots at heavyweight by beating Hasim Rahman

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

Fighters recognized as champions by THE RING are rated at the top of their division, with the top 10 contenders listed below.

Championship vacancies can be filled in one of two ways: by unifying all three alphabet titles in a division; or by winning a box-off between THE RING'S number-one and number-two contenders, or, in certain instances, a box-off between our number-one and number-three contenders.

The only three occasions when a fighter will lose his championship status are when he retires, moves to another weight division, or is defeated in a championship bout.

Ratings By The Editors
Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

Champ: LENNOX LEWIS
England 40-2-1 (31)

1. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine 38-1 (35)
2. **CHRIS BYRD**
Flint, MI 35-2 (20)
3. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Fairburn, GA 38-5-2 (25)
4. **KIRK JOHNSON**
Canada 32-0-1 (23)
5. **JOHN RUIZ**
Chelsea, MA 37-4-1 (27)
6. **JAMEEL McCLINE**
Port Jefferson, NY 28-2-3 (16)
7. **DAVID TUA**
New Zealand 40-3 (35)
8. **HASIM RAHMAN**
Baltimore, MD 35-4 (29)
9. **MIKE TYSON**
Catskill, NY 49-4 (43)
10. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine 31-1 (30)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
Whittier, CA 34-2 (27)
2. **FERNANDO VARGAS**
Oxnard, CA 22-1 (20)
3. **WINKY WRIGHT**
St. Petersburg, FL 43-3 (25)
4. **FRANCISCO CASTILLEJO**
Spain 53-5 (36)
5. **BRONCO McKART**
Monroe, MI 45-3 (29)
6. **DANIEL SANTOS**
Puerto Rico 25-2-1 (20)
7. **KASSIM OUMA**
W. Palm Beach, FL 16-1-1 (11)
8. **ALEX BUNEMA**
Dallas, TX 20-3-2 (12)
9. **STEVE ROBERTS**
England 29-0 (14)
10. **ROMAN KARMAZIN**
Russia 29-0-1 (18)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
Mexico 54-3 (39)
2. **ERIK MORALES**
Mexico 41-0 (31)
3. **NASEEM HAMED**
England 36-1 (31)
4. **MANUEL MEDINA**
Mexico 60-12 (27)
5. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
Albuquerque, NM 52-2-2 (28)
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico 38-2 (30)
7. **DERRICK GAINER**
Pensacola, FL 38-5 (24)
8. **FRANKIE TOLEDO**
Paterson, NJ 41-6-1 (16)
9. **JULIO PABLO CHACON**
Argentina 43-2 (31)
10. **DANIEL SEDA**
Puerto Rico 18-0 (15)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

Champ: PAULIE AYALA
Ft. Worth, TX 34-1 (12)

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines 34-2-1 (25)
2. **BONES ADAMS**
Henderson, KY 41-5-3 (19)
3. **OSCAR LARIOS**
Mexico 44-3-1 (31)
4. **WILLIE JORRIN**
Sacramento, CA 28-0-1 (12)
5. **LEHLO LEDWABA**
South Africa 33-2-1 (22)
6. **OSAMU SATO**
Japan 26-1-2 (15)
7. **YODDAMRONG SITHYODTHONG**
Thailand 27-1-1 (12)
8. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
Mexico 30-2-2 (21)
9. **ISRAEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico 32-3 (24)
10. **AGAPITO SANCHEZ**
Dominican Republic 33-7-2 (19)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **TIM AUSTIN**
Cincinnati, OH 24-0-1 (21)
2. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM**
Thailand 37-1-1 (26)
3. **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
Denmark 52-2 (26)
4. **RAFAEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico 27-3 (25)
5. **EIDY MOYA**
Venezuela 15-2 (8)
6. **ADAN VARGAS**
Mexico 37-3-1 (23)
7. **HERIBERTO RUIZ**
Mexico 25-1-2 (12)
8. **GENARO GARCIA**
Mexico 27-3 (16)
9. **TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA**
Japan 22-3-2 (13)
10. **CRUZ CARBAJAL**
Mexico 21-11-1 (17)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **VASSILIY JIROV** Kazakhstan 31-0 (27)
2. **JOHNNY NELSON** England 42-12-1 (28)
3. **JEAN-MARC MORMECK** France 27-2 (19)
4. **WAYNE BRAITHWAITE** Guyana 17-0 (14)
5. **EZRA SELLERS** Washington, D.C. 24-5 (22)
6. **O'NEIL BELL** Atlanta, GA 17-1-1 (16)
7. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND 46-4 (22)
8. **ALEXANDRE GUROV** Ukraine 32-3-1 (27)
9. **JORGE CASTRO** Argentina 119-8-3 (83)
10. **DALE BROWN** Canada 28-2-1 (19)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 175 pounds

Champ: ROY JONES Pensacola, FL 46-1 (37)

1. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany 46-0 (36)
2. **ERIC HARDING** Philadephia, PA 21-1-1 (7)
3. **ANTONIO TARVER** Orlando, FL 19-1 (16)
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON** Houston, TX 42-7-1 (24)
5. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL 42-3 (29)
6. **DAVID TELESCO** Port Chester, NY 26-3 (21)
7. **JULIO GONZALEZ** Huntington Beach, CA 29-1 (19)
8. **BRUNO GIRARD** France 41-2-2 (7)
9. **LOU DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY 31-2-1 (21)
10. **CLINTON WOODS** England 32-1 (19)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **JOE CALZAGHE** Wales 33-0 (27)
2. **SVEN OTTKE** Germany 27-0 (5)
3. **BYRON MITCHELL** Ozark, AL 24-1-1 (17)
4. **ANTWUN ECHOLS** Davenport, IA 27-4-1 (24)
5. **CHARLES BREWER** Philadelphia, PA 37-9 (26)
6. **ERIC LUCAS** Canada 35-4-3 (13)
7. **THOMAS TATE** Houston, TX 41-7 (28)
8. **MADS LARSEN** Denmark 40-1 (34)
9. **MANUEL SIACA** Puerto Rico 16-4 (15)
10. **MARKUS BEYER** Germany 25-1 (10)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

Champ: BERNARD HOPKINS Philadelphia, PA 41-2-1 (30)

1. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Puerto Rico 41-1 (34)
2. **HARRY SIMON** Namibia 23-0 (17)
3. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. 33-2-1 (24)
4. **HOWARD EASTMAN** England 32-1 (29)
5. **ARMAND KRAJNC** Sweden 26-1 (19)
6. **ANTONIO PERUGINO** Italy 21-0 (7)
7. **TITO MENDOZA** Panama 27-3 (20)
8. **ROBERT ALLEN** Atlanta, GA 32-4 (24)
9. **HASSINE CHERIFI** France 32-6-1 (20)
10. **RHOSHII WELLS** Atlanta, GA 15-0-2 (8)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

Champ: VERNON FORREST Atlanta, GA 34-0 (26)

1. **SHANE MOSLEY** Pomona, CA 38-1 (35)
2. **RICARDO MAYORGA** Nicaragua 24-3-1 (22)
3. **ANTONIO MARGARITO** Mexico 26-3 (18)
4. **THOMAS DAMGAARD** Denmark 30-0 (24)
5. **ANDREW LEWIS** Guyana 21-1-1 (19)
6. **ANTONIO DIAZ** Coachella, CA 37-4 (26)
7. **MANUEL GOMEZ** Mexico 21-10 (16)
8. **CORY SPINKS** St. Louis, MO 29-2 (11)
9. **MICHELE PICCIRILLO** Italy 37-1 (23)
10. **DANNY PEREZ** El Cajon, CA 27-2 (17)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

Champ: KOSTYA TSZYU Australia 29-1-1 (23)

1. **SHARMBA MITCHELL** Washington, D.C. 48-3 (29)
2. **ZAB JUDAH** Brooklyn, NY 27-1 (21)
3. **DeMARCUS CORLEY** Washington, D.C. 27-1-1 (16)
4. **MICKY WARD** Lowell, MA 38-11 (27)
5. **DIOBELYS HURTADO** Miami, FL 35-2-1 (23)
6. **ARTURO GATTI** Jersey City, NJ 34-6 (28)
7. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA** San Antonio, TX 43-5-2 (17)
8. **OKTAY URKAL** Germany 30-1 (10)
9. **BEN TACKIE** Ghana 24-3 (15)
10. **OMAR WEIS** Argentina 35-3-3 (16)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

Champ: FLOYD MAYWEATHER Grand Rapids, MI 28-0 (20)

1. **JOSE LUIS CASTILLO** Mexico 45-5-1 (41)
2. **STEVE JOHNSTON** Denver, CO 34-2-1 (16)
3. **PAUL SPADAFORA** Pittsburgh, PA 35-0 (14)
4. **LEONARD DORIN** Canada 21-0 (7)
5. **ANGEL MANFREDY** Gary, IN 40-6-1 (29)
6. **JUAN LAZCANO** El Paso, TX 29-2-1 (22)
7. **RAUL BALBI** France 48-6-1 (33)
8. **ARTUR GRIGORIAN** Uzbekistan 34-0 (22)
9. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ** Mexico 48-5-1 (33)
10. **COLIN DUNNE** England 37-1 (26)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **ACELINO FREITAS** Brazil 31-0 (29)
2. **JOEL CASAMAYOR** Miami, FL 27-1 (17)
3. **JESUS CHAVEZ** Mexico 36-2 (25)
4. **STEVE FORBES** Las Vegas, NV 20-1 (5)
5. **YODSANAN NANTHACHAI** Thailand 36-2-1 (33)
6. **PHILLIP NDOU** South Africa 27-1 (26)
7. **CARLOS HERNANDEZ** Bellflower, CA 37-3-1 (23)
8. **JOHN BROWN** Atlantic City, NJ 23-9 (11)
9. **JORGE BARRIOS** Argentina 33-1 (24)
10. **DANIEL ATTAH** Nigeria 20-0-1 (8)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **MASAMORI TOKUYAMA** North Korea 26-2-1 (7)
2. **ALEXANDER MUNOZ** Venezuela 22-0 (22)
3. **FELIX MACHADO** Venezuela 22-3-1 (11)
4. **GERRY PENALOSA** Philippines 45-4-2 (30)
5. **MARTIN CASTILLO** Mexico 21-1 (13)
6. **CELES KOBAYASHI** Japan 24-5-3 (14)
7. **PEDRO ALCAZAR** Panama 25-0-1 (14)
8. **JESUS ROJAS** Venezuela 35-9-3 (19)
9. **MAURICIO PASTRANA** Colombia 28-3 (18)
10. **IN JOO CHO** Korea 18-2 (7)

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM** Thailand 44-2 (25)
2. **ERIC MOREL** Madison, WI 31-0 (17)
3. **IRENE PACHECO** Colombia 26-0 (20)
4. **HAWK MAKEPULA** South Africa 20-1 (13)
5. **FERNANDO MONTIEL** Mexico 23-0-1 (17)
6. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT** Thailand 42-1 (14)
7. **MALCOLM TUNACAO** Philippines 11-1-2 (7)
8. **PETER CULSHAW** England 21-1-1 (12)
9. **GERSON GUERRERO** Mexico 24-4 (18)
10. **ADONIS RIVAS** Nicaragua 18-2-1 (10)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **RICARDO LOPEZ** Mexico 50-0-1 (37)
2. **ROSENDO ALVAREZ** Nicaragua 31-2-1 (20)
3. **YOSAM CHOI** South Korea 24-1 (13)
4. **BEBIS MENDOZA** Colombia 28-1 (23)
5. **PICHIT SIRIWAT** Thailand 25-2 (12)
6. **NELSON DIEPPA** Puerto Rico 19-2-1 (11)
7. **JORGE ARCE** Mexico 29-3-1 (21)
8. **HIDENOBU HONDA** Japan 24-1 (12)
9. **ZOLANI PETELO** South Africa 17-3-2 (9)
10. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO** Mexico 65-8-4 (29)

STRAWWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **JOSE AGUIRRE** Mexico 27-1-1 (17)
2. **ROBERTO LEYVA** Mexico 21-0-1 (18)
3. **CHANA PORPAOIN** Thailand 47-2-2 (17)
4. **KEITARO HOSHINO** Japan 22-7 (5)
5. **NOEL ARAMBULET** Venezuela 17-2-1 (10)
6. **JOMA GAMBOA** Philippines 31-7-2 (22)
7. **KERMIN GUARDIA** Colombia 33-2 (20)
8. **DANIEL REYES** Colombia 27-1 (21)
9. **MIGUEL BARRERA** Colombia 18-0-2 (11)
10. **KHULILE MAKEBA** South Africa 16-1 (9)

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

OH, IT'S YOU AGAIN

Evander Holyfield reminds me of the Jason Voorhees character in the *Friday The 13th* films. Right now, they're up to the 10th installment in the series, and even though Jason was killed off more than once in the past, he's somehow on the rampage again, complete with a storyline offering some tortured explanation as to why this dude can die more often than a bad comic in the Catskills and still return to wreak gory havoc.

Holyfield has been thought to be dead on a few occasions himself. But no sooner do the pallbearers hoist up his casket than he always pushes open the lid, jumps out, and announces that reports of his passing were extremely premature. The obituary then gets sent back to the copy desk, the hole in the ground gets refilled, the headstone gets returned to the guy with the chisel, and "The Real Deal" returns to being a pain in the heavyweight division's ass once again.

Holyfield hardly looked spectacular while walking away with a split technical decision over Hasim Rahman in Atlantic City in June. But The Real Deal looked a lot better than a 39-year-old with his history of punishment absorption and subpar outings could have been expected to look. Like Jason Voorhees, Holyfield wreaked some gory havoc when a clash of heads in the seventh round left Rahman with a lump on his noggin the size of an Idaho potato. It was yet another bizarre outing for Holyfield, who, in the past five years, has specialized in outcomes that raise more questions than they answer.

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Holyfield's in the title picture again after beating Rahman

One thing that's crystal clear, though, is that Holyfield has put himself in the middle of the heavyweight title picture once more—whether we like it or not. And you can count me among those who don't like it. Granted, admitting that makes me feel somewhat guilty. For it's hard to complain about a fighter who has always taken his job seriously, trained like a machine, and been the quintessential blood-and-guts warrior. Not to mention someone who has never gotten into 4 a.m. street battles, sexually assaulted women,

or claimed that he wanted to eat children or crush their private parts.

Still, there's a part of me that is just plain tired of Commander Vander. Isn't it hard to believe that he's had only 45 pro fights? It sure seems like 145. The month Holyfield turned pro, November 1984, Ronald Reagan was winning a second term as President, Michael Jordan was playing in his first NBA games, and Britney Spears was in the throes of "The Terrible Twos." Considering that his pro career kicked off with great fanfare (following a controversial loss at the L.A. Olympics, he turned pro at Madison Square Garden in prime time on ABC), Holyfield has been in our consciousness for almost 18 years. In boxing, that's a long time. Hell, in *tennis*, that's a long time.

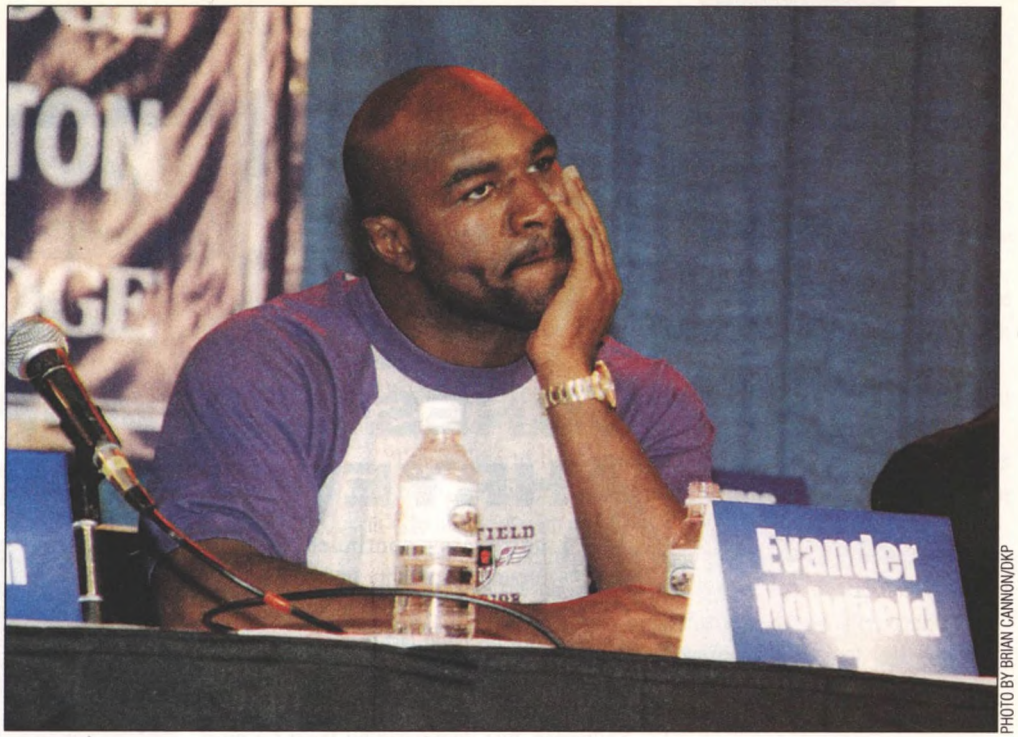


PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

Vander ponders a future filled with possibilities

So now, after lumping up Rahman, Holyfield has positioned himself to meet Lennox Lewis. Great, just what we're dying to see. Another 12 rounds with the Briton, who has gone 24 less-than-scintillating rounds with The Real Deal already. This is not must-see TV in my house. How about in yours?

Holyfield has this amazing ability to keep rebounding from dreary performances we're convinced have signaled that he's finished as a serious player in the division: the title-relinquishing decision loss to Michael Moorer in 1994, after which Holyfield revealed that he had a career-threatening heart condition, the 1995 knockout defeat to Riddick Bowe, the controversial draw with Lewis in their first showdown in 1999, and, finally, the decision loss and knockdown suffered against John Ruiz in 2001. The problem for those of us who've had our fill of Holyfield, however, is that he can't rebound far enough to be a dominant champion once again. He can only rebound far enough to secure a lofty alphabet rating and demand another major fight/big payday. He's too good to be forced into the nursing home, apparently, but not nearly good enough to withstand comparisons to his youth.

So what do we do with the guy? Though he should retire, it's tough to make the case that he can't beat anyone of importance anymore. (Before the win over Rahman, Holyfield drew in his rubber match with Ruiz, but probably deserved the nod.) And when you think about it, he has been truly thrashed only once: by Bowe in their rubber match. What Holyfield's survival near the top of the heap proves is how truly mediocre these heavyweight ranks really are. No fighter who turns 40 in October and lacks a knockout punch should be on the verge of another title shot, no matter how much experience he has or how low his percentage of body fat is. Not if his weight class is a strong one.

Holyfield isn't doing it with miracles or mirrors. He hangs around and repositions himself in the title chase because Rahman hasn't fought enough good opponents to learn the angles and tricks Holyfield has picked up in his 16 battles for a version of the heavyweight belt. Because Ruiz can't maintain the concentration a Holyfield can through 36 rounds with the same foe. And because while Wladimir Klitschko and Kirk Johnson have weakened the knees of their rivals, they haven't weakened the knees of the ticket buyers.

It appears that we're stuck with Holyfield for a while yet. He was actually vowing to continue on even if he'd lost to Rahman. (He would have surely needed his head, not just his prostate, examined.) Now that he has vanquished "The Rock," Holyfield is firmly convinced that he can one day rule the heavyweight universe again.

"My whole thing is to be able to top everything," he has said. "That means I have to retire as undisputed heavyweight champ of the world."

The stubbornness that keeps him pumping iron when his muscles are burning and keeps him on his feet when a big man's punches are whacking his whiskers also makes him a most frustrating person to listen to when he's planning his future. Retire as undisputed champ? Yeah, right. Who does he think he's kidding? Holyfield would *never* retire on top. Not with lucrative defenses to be made. His Georgia mansion only has 20 bathrooms and 12 bedrooms, you know. That's great for a starter home, but someday he's going to have to plunk down a few bucks for something with a little size to it.

I'll tell you what, if Holyfield does manage to land another title shot one of these days, you grab the popcorn, I'll spring for the sodas, and we'll meet at 10 p.m. at the theater of the absurd. Right under the marquee. The one the reads, *Title Day The 17th: Vander Lives!* ■

DIGGING DEEP

By Ivan Goldman

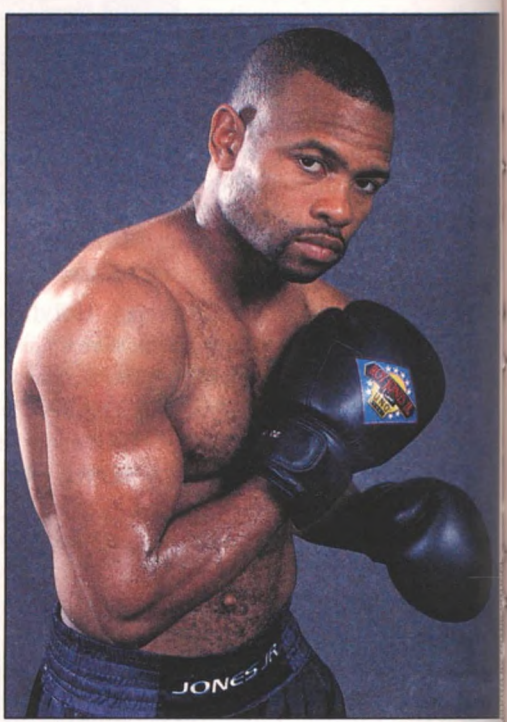
JONES' NEXT OPPONENT: AHRYEWKIDINGMEE?

Controversy continued to swirl around the quality and selection of Roy Jones' opponents after he won a unanimous decision last week over mandatory WBC contender Olive Oyle. Oyle, the longtime main squeeze of Popeye the Sailorman, was dominated by Jones for most of the 12 rounds.

Jones said in three months he would be ready to take on the IBF's number-six contender, Boris "One-Arm" Ahryewkidingmee, in his home country, Bulgaria. Ahryewkidingmee works full-time driving a fertilizer truck and trains at night with his left arm.

Meanwhile, Jones' adviser Brad Jacobs pursued a backup plan, talking to the promoter of TV personality Richard Simmons about a possible pay-per-view match with him.

"We're looking at a couple of venues for that one," Jacobs said. "In the lead right now is the parking lot behind a convenience store in Pensacola."



Is Olive Oyle next for Roy?

But complicating a deal with either Ahryewkidingmee or Simmons was a petition from Oyle's trainer-manager-boyfriend, Popeye, who was urging WBC President Jose Sulaiman to order Jones into a mandatory rematch with the willowy Oyle before taking on any other contenders.

"She didn't eat spinach before the fight like I told her," Popeye said. "If Jones is any kind of man, he'll give us another shot," said the eccentric but much-admired trainer.

Asked why Oyle ignored his instructions, Popeye, puffing furiously on his pipe, answered that with her lack of big-fight experience, she just couldn't handle the hoopla attached to a major championship bout.

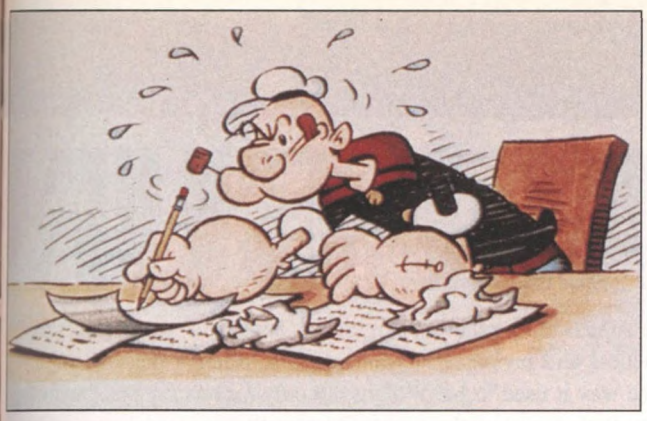
"That Mississippi garage where they held the fight was practically sold out," he said. "There must have been 165 fans in there, and Olive wasn't used to such a big crowd."

Jones wasn't buying it.

"They all make excuses," he said. "If fighters look bad in there, it's because I make them look bad. I'm the best in the world."

To most onlookers, it appeared Jones lost interest in knocking out Oyle after she started retreating in the third round. During round nine, the camera caught Larry Merchant balancing his checkbook while Jim Lampley and George Foreman were getting their ironing done.

In a postfight interview, HBO's Merchant asked Jones: "It seemed as though you could have dictat-



Popeye fires off an angry protest letter to Sulaiman!

ed a faster pace, Roy. Why didn't you? You were like a sapling in a Greek chorus during a lunar eclipse."

"What the hell are you talking about, Larry?" Jones said.

"Yeah, Larry, what the hell are you talking about?" Foreman said.

"I'm asking the questions, George."

"Then ask him about fighting, not lunar eclipses."

"Those are literary images, George," Merchant said. "I'm trying to raise the level of discussion, but you fight me at every turn."

"Hey, you guys do that on your own time," Jones said. "I'm the best fighter in the world. I wanna talk to my fans."

"What fans?" Lampley said.

"I said, I'm asking the questions," Merchant said.

He turned to Jones. "What fans? The way you've been carefully selecting your opponents, your fans are like rhinestones in the plumbing of the forest."

"He's doing it again," Foreman said.

"I'll show you just how wrong you are about me," Jones said. "You'll be apologizing, I promise you. Every one of you."

"You mean you'll sign to fight somebody like Bernard Hopkins, Dariusz Michalczewski, or Vassily Jirov?" asked Merchant.

"I mean I'm gonna cut another rap CD complaining about how nobody appreciates me," Jones said. "Besides which, if you guys don't get your act together, next time I'll go over to Showtime to get interviewed."

"If boxing were a game of pinochle, Jim Gray would be a scab on the backside of a discarded king of clubs," Merchant said.

Said Foreman: "That's the first thing you said tonight that made sense, Larry."

"Shut up, George," Lampley said.

"What's the question?" Jones said.

"Shut up, Roy," Merchant said.

"I can't take any more of this," Jones said. He stalked out of the ring. His handlers, scurrying after him, held all his belts aloft.

Later I reached Mark Taffet, HBO senior vice president of sports operations. He was sitting by himself in the HBO cafeteria, reading a piece of paper over and over and muttering to himself.

Taking a wild guess, I asked him, "Is that the HBO contract with Jones?"

"Never mind about that," he said, stuffing the paper into his pocket. "We have a problem with a fight in Bulgaria because of the different time zones. As for Richard Simmons, since he is a legitimate WBA contender in the light heavyweight division, we may be forced to put on that event. But I rather doubt it will be on pay-per-view, as Roy requested. I just don't think the numbers would make sense.

"Also, we're trying to find the right date for the fight. We don't want it to conflict with anything else."

Conflict with another boxing match?

"No," he said. "We don't want it to conflict with anything whatsoever. We're looking for a night when nothing is on the other channels except maybe a test of the emergency frequencies."

Clearly, HBO was concerned after learning that the Jones-Oyle contest attracted fewer viewers than the Food Channel's show on cooking your goose.

By this time Jones was back home in Pensacola. I got through to him on his cell phone as he was finishing a rooster inventory.

"I'm willing to fight anybody," he said. "That includes Hopkins and Jirov. But when we talk money, they're so damn greedy, you can't do business with them."

"Okay," I asked him. "For years you've refused to go to Europe to fight Michalczewski. Then why would you consider traveling to Europe to fight a one-armed Bulgarian who drives a fertilizer truck?"

"Eighty-twenty," Jones answered. "You just tell Ahryewkidingmee eighty-twenty and I'll kick his ass."

BRITISH MAGOOS: When Yuri Tsarenko upset Gary "Rocket Man" Lockett in their junior middleweight bout in Cardiff, Wales, by the 12th round Lockett's face looked like it had been chewed up by machinery. Tumblers of blood flowed, and he suffered from two hideous welts.

Yet referee John Coyle didn't summon any of the three ringside physicians to look him over. Why did no one stop this fight? Lockett, whose only hope for victory was a Hail Mary kayo, had minimal vision as he took a ton of unnecessary, extremely dangerous punishment.

Showtime announcer Bobby Czyz, who from his ringside position could keep a close eye on the corner, pointed out that Lockett's seconds didn't apply Enswell or even old-fashioned ice.

Magoos all around—to the British commission, the ring doctors, Coyle, and Lockett's seconds. Such a brave fighter deserves a better corner. ■

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Lockett took unnecessary punishment from Tsarenko

MOHEGAN SUN

Text by Joe Santoliquito
Photos by Marty Rosengarten

IF YOU GO

Location: 1 Mohegan Sun Boulevard, Uncasville, CT, 06382; phone: 860-862-8000.

Directions: By car: From I-95 in Connecticut, take the I-395 North exit toward Norwich/Plainfield (exit number 76). Merge onto I-395 N, then take the Connecticut 2A-E exit (number 79A) toward Preston/Ledyard. Follow CT 2A-E for about a mile and take the Mohegan Sun Boulevard exit (number 2). Follow the hotel parking signs to the hotel.

Tickets: Ticket availability obviously varies on the importance of the fight. The Ward-Gatti fight attracted a high number of walk-up sales, with ticket prices going from $250 for ringside seats to $40 for upper-deck seating. Doors generally open to the public at 7 p.m. for major fights.

Who to look out for: Connecticut is a state more noted for its rich college basketball pedigree than its background in boxing, so who actually attends the fights depends on the importance of the bout. Ward-Gatti attracted an eclectic following. You'll often see former IBF junior welterweight titlist Zab Judah mingling among fight fans. Preliminary fighters may blend into the crowd to watch the rest of the card after their bouts are completed.

Advice to greenhorns: Get there early and check out everything. The Mohegan Sun is a combination mall, hotel/casino, and boxing arena all wrapped up into one multi-purpose sports/entertainment complex. Some restaurants serve for 24 hours, and the shopping ranges from odds-and-ends stores to nostalgia shops.

Plenty of between-bout snacks are available

Sports venues are supposed to radiate their own uniqueness and mystique. At least that's the way it used to be. Take Boston's Fenway Park for example, with the Green Monster in left field, or the ivy that grows on the outfield walls at Wrigley Field in Chicago. Watching ballgames there is as comfortable as sitting in your living room. It's just the same watching fights at the Blue Horizon in Philadelphia.

Paul Munick is trying to create a similar coziness at the Mohegan Sun Arena. The vice president of sports and entertainment at the Mohegan Sun Hotel and Resort Casino in Uncasville, Connecticut, has the means and the facility to accomplish it.

From its state-of-the–art 10,000-seat arena, to the waterfalls and the world's largest planetarium in the hotel/casino, the Mohegan Sun offers a multitude of diversions not only for boxing fans, but for their families as well.

Munick certainly has a strong foundation on which to build toward future big bouts: The first major fight held at the new arena was the epic Micky Ward-Arturo Gatti clash on May 18, in front of a Connecticut casino record crowd of 6,254 fans.

"The arena here is just great, and I'm ready to come here for any excuse," said excited Hall of Fame trainer Emanuel Steward, after doing color analysis of the Ward-Gatti fight on the HBO *Boxing After Dark* telecast. "If it were up to me, I'd have a fight here once a month."

The venue opened on October 26, 2001, hosting Michael Jordan and the

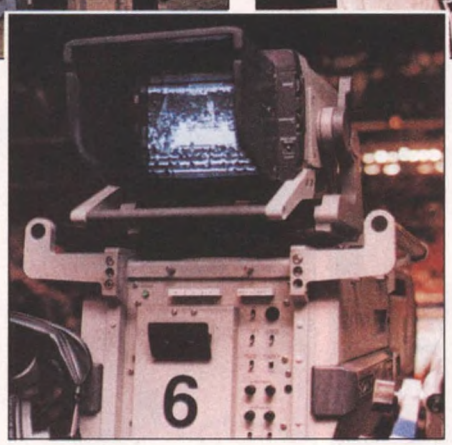
The $1.1-billion renovation includes a 600-room hotel

Part of Mohegan Sun's unique interior

Mohegan Sun's new 10,000-seat arena is perfect for boxing

Both casino and fight venue are in one building

The Ward-Gatti war drew a record 6,254 fans



The Mohegan Sun ring through the eye of HBO's camera

Washington Wizards against the Boston Celtics in a pre-season NBA game. Since then, Mohegan has attracted Showtime, HBO, and ESPN2 to telecast fights.

"We're in an interesting location, less than a couple of hours from New York, less than a couple hours from Boston," Munick said. "So we're situated in what we feel is the right area."

What makes the Mohegan even more attractive is the $1.1-billion renovation that was completed this year, which included a 600-room hotel that opened in April. Despite the added ammentities, Munick still realizes what sells: good fights. Battles like Ward-Gatti are very rare, yet Munick would rather focus on putting on good fights than concentrate on volume.

"People are choosy as to who they want to see, and if we do four, five fights a year, we're going to be very happy with that," Munick said. "I don't think many venues do more. If they do more than that, I don't think the fights are that compelling.

"We just feel we clearly have it over any venue in the Northeast. We might not be as big, but we don't need to be as big. The smaller arena gives the fans more. It gets them closer to the action. We're not mammoth, but we've changed the boxing scene, and Vegas clearly knows who we are. We won't be New York, but that's okay." ■

CAMERA CLICKS

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

What made Hasim Rahman's head swell up more: knocking out Lennox Lewis in South Africa, or knocking heads with Evander Holyfield in Atlantic City? Neither Rahman nor his wife Crystal were happy campers following the horrific injury and unfortunate ending endured by "The Rock."

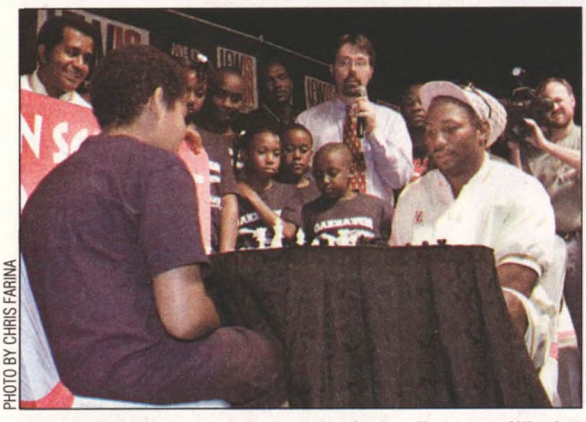
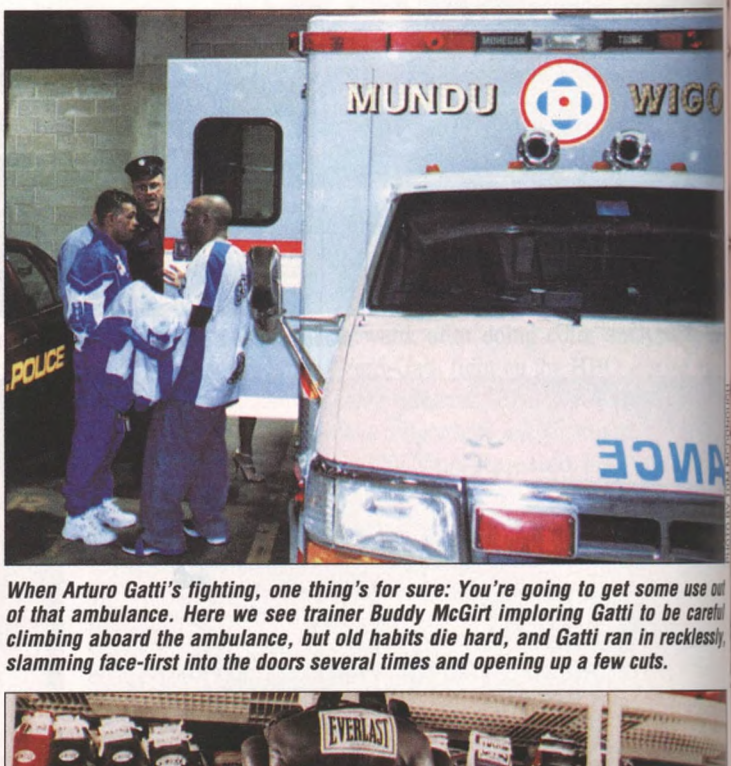


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

You can't say Lennox Lewis doesn't take on all comers. Whether it's a boxing match against past-his-prime Mike Tyson or a chess match against approaching-his-prime Carlos Harbert, age 13, Lewis backs down from no challenge. Harbert, a member of a Memphis-area chess team, acquitted himself far better than Tyson, and actually defeated the heavyweight champ.



When Arturo Gatti's fighting, one thing's for sure: You're going to get some use out of that ambulance. Here we see trainer Buddy McGirt imploring Gatti to be careful climbing aboard the ambulance, but old habits die hard, and Gatti ran in recklessly, slamming face-first into the doors several times and opening up a few cuts.

When Don King is rummaging through the equipment room, you can bet he has a hard time finding headgear that fits over his famous hairdo. Rumor has it he switched from his normal, electrified look to cornrows in order to make this photo possible.

PHOTO BY TOM MCDONOUGH

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

No, that's not Felix Trinidad trying out some new handwraps. It's former NBA star Patrick Ewing, his left arm in a cast, taking aim at female fighter Isra Girgrah. The two met at the Evander Holyfield-Hasim Rahman fight in Atlantic City.

PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/ONO

Now that he's no longer the lord of the ring, former heavyweight champ Hasim Rahman has taken to hanging out with people who look like characters from The Lord Of The Rings. *Actually, that's a man dressed as King Neptune, whom Rahman seemed slightly amused to meet during the buildup to his fight with Evander Holyfield.*

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

The honors keep coming: After fighting a four-round exhibition at the First Union Spectrum in Philadelphia in May, Bernard Hopkins received a certificate signed by President Bush and an American flag from Pennsylvania Congressman Bob Baker. That's Damon Feldman, promoter of the show, standing between Hopkins and Baker.

NOSTALGIA CORNER

After losing a decision to then-heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano in their first fight, Ezzard Charles leapfrogged all the other contenders and got to fight the champ again three months later. Here, "The Cincinnati Cobra" displays that leapfrogging technique, with the help of manager Tom Tannas.

NEW FACES

CHAD DAWSON

Super Middleweight

By Joe Santoliquito

PRO RECORD

2001				
Aug. 19	Steve Garrett, Uncasville, CT	KO 2		
Sept. 21	Antonio Baker, Cranston, RI	KO 1		
Dec. 13	James Orzo, Uncasville	KO 1		
2002				
Feb. 16	Jerold Lowe, Ledyard, CT	KO 1		
March 1	Martin Desjardins, Uncasville	W 4		
April 27	Chad Sawyer, Uncasville	W 6		
May 18	Gary Grant, Uncasville	KO 1		
FIGHTS	**WON**	**LOST**	**DRAW**	**KOs**
7	7	0	0	5

Wanda would dart him that look, the kind of gunmetal stare only a mother can apply to her son, when Chad Dawson would come home after disappearing for days. Dawson dreaded those wary eyes. They went right through him and were able to tug on his insides. The look was usually followed by a nod, as if to say "Chad, you know better," especially with a fight coming up.

Wanda had a strong suspicion what was going on and was counting on Chad to wise up, before falling by the wayside like so many of his friends had done.

Dawson had already been kicked out of the house for a few days. He quit school. He didn't have a job. His days were spent hanging out with drug dealers, playing basketball in the park. And as for boxing, it was just something to fill spare time. But Wanda wasn't about to quit on Chad. Either was Dawson's father, Rick, or Dawson's pal, Billy Ray Ruckman. Eventually, Dawson gave in and started to listen. He never did return to school, but he did return to the gym, and what appeared to be another tragic tale of lost talent consumed by the streets seems to be taking a turn toward possible boxing stardom.

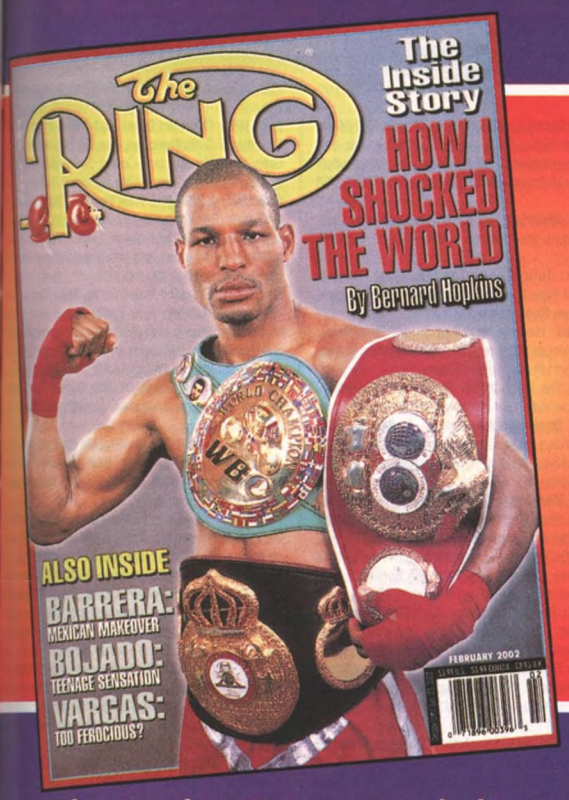
The 6'2" southpaw has found some direction in his young life. Sure, sporting a 7-0 (5) pro record as a super middleweight can be awfully motivating, but it's the 19-year-old Dawson's gradual maturity during this volatile period that may lead him to one day wear a world championship belt around his waist.

It was only a year ago that Dawson had no direction at all, aside from knowing where the local basketball courts were. He

(Continued on page 90)

SUBSCRIBE TO THE RING AND $19 IS YOURS TO KEEP!

That's just about what you'll save when you subscribe to THE RING for a year!



Each issue of THE RING contains the best in worldwide boxing coverage with the most dynamic ringside photography ... Columns by the most renowned boxing journalists ... The most respected ratings in the business ... A dip into our vast archives with The Ring Classic ... New Faces ... Camera Clicks.

THERE'S MORE!

Alternating with THE RING every other month is the 108-page RING EXTRA. It's THE RING—and then some!

SAVE ALMOST $19.00!

Now is the perfect time to take advantage of this tremendous offer. With our full-color format, THE RING continues to raise the standard for boxing magazines it first established in 1922!

Send To: **London Publishing Co.**, P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121

THREE WAYS TO SAVE!

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

☐ THE RING (6 issues) for $19.00.
That's a savings of nearly $5.00!

☐ THE RING EXTRA (6 issues) for $28.50.
That's a savings of more than $7.00!

Save $19.00!

☐ All 12 issues of THE RING for $41.00.

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____
Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Signature: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

☐ New Subscription ☐ Renewal

FOR CANADA AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: $23.80 FOR THE RING ($34.00 AIRMAIL); $33.30 FOR THE RING EXTRA ($43.50 AIRMAIL); $50.60 FOR THE COMBINATION ($71.00 AIRMAIL). INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE. OFFER EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2003.

A0802R

5783/11-01/4c

Back Issues of

Add to your RING collection by ordering from our limited supply of back issues. Single issues are $5 each. Order by the year and save up to 30%. Listed prices include postage and handling. Supplies are limited. To assure fulfillment order today.

March 1982 (100-Page Special): Sanchez & Leonard: Fighters Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awrds, Chandler gatefold, 1981 in review, boxing calendar, powers-that-be.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

March 1983 (108-Page Special): Larry Holmes—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Donald Curry, Milton McCrory, Fight, Upset, Comeback, and Prospect of the Year.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Boxing Writer's Hall of Fame (Monzon, Foster, Burley), second generation fighters, Stanley Ketchel.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

June 1983: What Now For Ray Mancini? Plus: Lupe Pintor, Paddy Flood, Bonecrusher Smith, Charlie Brown, Frazier-Broad, Chang-Zapata, Holmes-Teofilo Stevenson, Tony Ayala, Jersey Joe Walcott.

Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One "Mas" Time. Plus: Larry Holmes, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle, Duran-Moore, Frazier-Bugner, Resto-Collins, Escalera-Hatcher.

Sept. 1983: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Panama Lewis, Spinks-Mustafa Muhammad, Hagler-Duran preview, Johnson-Gotch.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Marvib Hagler, Roberto Duran, Rosario-Davis, Pryor-Furlano.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, Pinklon Thomas, Julian Jackson.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Thomas Hearns—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Annual ratings, Fight, Upset, Round, Comeback, and Prospect of the Year.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... An The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Hor Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Bloo Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearn Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAul Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethn matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Certa Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Wh Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britt Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 wo champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezz Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: The State Of The Game. Plus: Je Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smi Joey Gamache.

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plu Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Grazian Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chave Marvin Hagler (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Sho Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorse fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: 'See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Ke Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cott Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Manon Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czy Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbon Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweig Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevi Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Tayl Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Bar (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweig Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandle Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Natio Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (colo Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brow Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jone Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Ma Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lenno Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansa Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plu "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morm East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10 Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Tit Is He Good Enough *Now?* Plus: Carbajal-Gonzale preview, Lennox Lewis, THE RING Poll, Freddie Pendleton.

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chave Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fift Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Nov. 1993: Julio Cesar Chavez: He Crushed Haugen ... He Annihilated Alli ... Is Pernell Whitaker Next Plus: Marvin Hagler, Evander Holyfield, John-John Molina, Madison Square Garden, bizarre training methods.

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994: Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Hill & Canizales, Kosho Tsyzu, James Toney, What If: Dempsey vs. Wills.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Dec. 1994: **Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up.** Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: **A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power.** Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

May 1995: **The State Of The Game.** Plus: Olzubek & Khachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: **(92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus:** Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: **Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title.** Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Oct. 1995 **(92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley!** Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Dec. 1995: **Mike Tyson (vs. Peter McNeeley): The Beast Is Yet To Come.** Plus: Morrison-Lewis preview, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, 10 best chins.

Winter 1995 **(92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On."** Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* readers' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Jan. 1996: **King Bruno! A Hero Always ... A Winner At Last.** Plus: Julio Cesar Chavez, Oscar De La Hoya, Chris Eubank, Eddie Perkins, who's hot/who's not.

Feb. 1996: **Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson?** Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

May 1996: **Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game.** Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

Sept. 1996: **Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson?** Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Nov. 1996: **Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show.** Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: **Our Spin On Roy Jones.** Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

Jan. 1997: **Riddick's Bowe's Promise: "This Time I'm Whipping Golota's Ass!"** Plus: David Reid, Pernell Whitaker, Dick Tiger, Juan LaPorte.

May 1997: **De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness?** Plus: Rosimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 **(Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever.** Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: **Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope.** Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, The Ring's 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Oct. 1997: Bang! Naseem Hamed Takes Aim At America. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Phillips-Tszyu, Saman Sorjaturong, Bobby Dykes.

Nov. 1997: Is Mike Tyson Finished? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, De La Hoya-Camacho preview, Frankie Conley, Hall of Fame, gloves,

Holiday 1997: Roy Jones: When He's Motivated, He's Unstoppable—Got That, Evander? Plus: Julio Cesar Green, Sugar Shane Mosley, boxers' day jobs, Tyson's mentor, Kid Lavigne.

Jan. 1998: Give This Man His Due! If You Can't Respect Oscar ... You Can't Respect Anyone! Plus: Sanchez-Mayweather, Morales-Zaragoza, Lucia Rijker, Marvin Johnson, characters.

Feb. 1998: Welter-Skelter! The Hottest Division In Boxing. Plus: Lewis-Golota, Olympic update, Art Shires, boxing I.Q.

March 1998 (92-Page Special): Into The Millennium With The Real Deal: The Ring's Timeline For Evander Holyfield. Plus: Hernandez-Hernandez, Briggs-Foreman, 10 champs recall "The Day I Won The Title," Johnny Thompson.

April 1998: Evander Holyfield: The Ring's Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

June 1998 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Tyson-King, David Reid, Bernard Hopkins, Ken Norton.

July 1998: Holyfield ... Tapia ... Hamed ... Jones ... Trinidad ... De La Hoya: Who Will Be The First To Fall? Plus: Magic Johnson, Chavez-Gonzalez & Lopez-Alvarez, underappreciated boxers.

Aug. 1998: Lennox Lewis: No Holyfield, No Glory. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Pat & Mike McMurtry, Chris Byrd, unbreakable records, contenders & pretenders.

Sept. 1998 (92-Page Special): This Man's Not Unbeatable! Five Top Trainers Reveal How To Solve The Hamed Puzzle. Plus: John Tate, Freddie Norwood, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, 12 greatest finishes.

Oct. 1998: Really Hard Punch ... Really Soft Lips: Oscar Makes Legs Quiver In And Out Of The Ring. Plus: Hector Camacho Jr., Mayweather-Hernandez preview, *Tuesday Night Fights.*

Jan. 1999: Sugar Shane Mosley: The Sweet Tradition Continues. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Erik Morales, Ray "Windmill" White.

Feb. 1999: 1999! It's Gonna Be A Great Year For Boxing. Plus: Mike Tyson, Foreman-Holmes, David Reid, Eric Morel, Richie Mitchell, quitters.

March 1999: De La Hoya vs. Quartey: Does Bazooka Have The Weapons To Shoot Down Oscar? Plus: Sugar Shane Mosley, Lopez-Alvarez II, Roy Jones, Coley Wallace.

April 1999 (92-Page Special): Fighter Of The Year: Floyd Mayweather Jr.: 'He's So Good, It's Scary!" Plus: Fernando Vargas, James Page, Luisito Espinosa, Robinson-Gatti II, Archie Moore, Carlos Oritz, 1998 diary.

May 1999: Is It All Over For Tyson? Plus: Terry Norris, Vinny Pazienza, Jesus Pimental, stoppages, mandatories.

June 1999: The Fans Have Spoken: Results Of *The Ring* Readers' Poll. Plus: Michael Grant, De La Hoya-Quartey, Antwun Echols, Ted Lowry.

July 1999 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Holyfield-Lewis, Felix Trinidad, Stevie Johnston, Emile Griffith, Phil Zwick.

Aug. 1999: Candidates For Greatness: Can Anyone Fill The Heavyweight Void? Plus: Tim Austin, Naseem Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Max Scmheling, Holyfield-Lewis.

Sept. 1999: Taking Stock In The Fight Game: Who's Hot, Who's Not. Plus: Tony Ayala, Keith Holmes, Denny & Phil Moyer, scoring.

Oct. 1999 (92-Page Special): Felix & Oscar Go To War! Who's Going To Prevail In The Welter Shootout? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Harry Simon, Omar Sheika, Al Andrews, 20 greatest fighters of 20th century.

Dec. 1999: Insiders' Analysis: Can Roy Jones Chop Down The Best Heavyweights? Plus: Ike Ibeabuchi, David Reid, David Tua, Carmen Basilio, Johnny Summerlin.

Holiday 1999 (92-Page Special): Heavyweight Showdowns! Holyfield vs. Lewis II, Grant vs. Golota. Plus: Francois Botha, Arturo Gatti, Michael Carbajal, Rocky Marciano, Lou Filippo.

Jan. 2000: What Does Trinidad's Victory Over Oscar Mean? Plus: Floyd Mayweather, Paul Spadafora, Ralph Dupas, boxing media.

March 2000: Lennox Lewis: The Champ For The Millennium ... Or Just For The Moment? Plus: Oleg Maskaev, Main Events, Derrick Jefferson, Jerry Buss, IBF scandal.

April 2000 (92-Page Special): Paulie Ayala—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Grant-Golota, Stephan Johnson, Gaspar Ortega, Kitten Hayward, writers' favorite fights.

May 2000: Lennox Lewis Will Quit ... Or Get Knocked Out, By Michael Grant. Plus: Roy Jones, Quartey-Vargas preview, Garth Panter, best chins, boxing movies.

June 2000: The Honors Keep Coming! Lenox Lewis Receives The Undisputed *Ring* Belt. Plus: Roy Jones, Vernon Forrest, Teddy Atlas, Mike Tyson, Don Fullmer.

July 2000 (92-Page Special): The State Of The Game. Plus: Felix Trinidad, Zab Judah, Oscar De La Hoya, Barrera-Morales, Ken Buchanan, Beau Jack, Eric Bottjer.

Aug. 2000: Hamed! And The Men Who Want To Kick His Naz! Plus: David Reid, James Prince, Anthony Fletcher, Micky Ward, final beatings, white hopes.

Sept. 2000: A New Look At Lennox Lewis: Is He An All-Time Great? Plus: Winky Wright, Michael Moorer, De La Hoya & Vargas, Eddie McGoorty.

Oct. 2000 (92-Page Special): Move Up Or Shut Up! We're Sick Of Roy Jones' Heavyweight Tease. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Tapia & Romero, Hasim Rahman, Dwight Qawi, Al Palzer, fight films, best refs.

(ALL-COLOR BEGINNING WITH THE DECEMBER 2000 ISSUE)

Dec. 2000: The Hell With Tyson—Tua Is The Man Who Could Beat Lewis. Plus: Mike Tyson, Felix Trinidad, Wladimir Klitschko, Trilla in Manila, U.S. vs. World, Toxey Hall.

Jan. 2001 (108-Page Extra): Trinidad's Destiny: Jones Is On His Mind ... But Vargas Is In His Face! Plus: Naseem Hamed, Tszyu-Judah, Evander Holyfield, Willie Bean, 20 greatest middleweights.

Feb. 2001: It's Not Over For Oscar: *The Ring's* Five-Step Recovery Plan. Plus: Bob Arum, Dingaan Thobela, Hernandez brothers, U.S. Olympic team, future pound-for-pounders.

March 2001 (108-Page Extra): Tyson! Forget About Retirement ... A Title Shot Awaits! Plus: Ayala-Tapia II, Audley Harrison, Chris Byrd, Kirk Johnson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Boone Kirkman, 12 most exciting rounds.

April 2001: A New Beginning ... A New Middle: Felix Trinidad Is Ready To Conquer Another Division! Plus: Shane Mosley, Lennox Lewis, Paul Andrews, boxing business.

May 2001 (108-Page Extra): Felix Trinidad—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, Barrera-Hamed preview, Bernard Hopkins, Joey Archer.

June 2001: Pretty Boy Floyd: Superstar Or Superbrat? Plus: Lewis vs. greats, 2000 Olympians, Henry Hall, rematches we'd like to see.

July 2001 (108-Page Extra): The State Of The Game. Plus: Zab Judah, John Ruiz, Andrew Lewis, Mark Johnson, British boxing.

Aug. 2001: Rocking The World! What Rahman's Victory Means To Boxing. Plus: Barrera-Hamed, Oscar De La Hoya, Mount Whitaker, *Friday Night Fights.*

Sept. 2001 (108-Page Extra): Exclusive Ring Interview—Hasim Rahman: "Nobody's Taking My Titles!" Plus: 20 all-time greatest lightweights, Pat Valentino, Hopkins & King, Jones & Arum.

Oct. 2001: Trinidad vs. Hopkins: Middleweight Unification Superfight Analysis & Predictions. Plus: Emanuel Steward, Joe Calzaghe, Ali's opponents, Rahman & King.

Nov. 2001 (108-Page Extra): *The Ring* 100: Ranking The Best Fighters In The World. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Jesus Chavez, Hall of Fame (Sugar Ramos, Ismael Laguna), Luther Rawlings, 15-rounders.

Dec. 2001: The Rock Promises Another Shock! "I'm Gonna Knock Lennox Out Again!" Plus: David Reid, Jones-Gonzalez, McCline-Grant, Jackie Graves, ring deaths.

Jan. 2002 (108-Page Extra): Oscar Feeds His Critics: Did He Chicken Out Against Vargas? Plus: Vladimir Klitschko, Chris Byrd, 20 greatest featherweights, "Caveman" Bob Moha.

Feb. 2002: How I Shocked The World, By Bernard Hopkins. Plus: Marco Antonio Barrera, Fernando Vargas, Francisco Bojado, boxers and national crises.

March 2002 (108-Page Extra): Is Tyson Ready To Regain The Title? Plus: Kostya Tszyu, Floyd Mayweather, Bernard Hopkins, Eddie Futch, fitness, ahead for 2002.

April 2002: Time For Tyson: The Final Step In Lewis' Legacy. Plus: Muhammad Ali, Barrera-Morales II preview, Ron Stander, The Ring's championship policy.

May 2002 (108-Page Extra): Bernard Hopkins—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, Holyfield-Ruiz III, 2000 Olympians, Eric Harding, "Silent" Hairston.

June 2002: Lennox Lewis: I'll End The Tyson "Freak Show!": Plus: Forrest-Mosley, Freitas-Casamayor, De La Hoya & Vargas, Hagler & Leonard.

July 2002 (108-Page Extra): Exclusive Preview: The Oscar-Fernando Hatefest. Plus: Hopkins & Monzon, Francisco Bojado, Buddy McGirt, Lionel Rose, State of the Game.

Aug. 2002: Lewis vs. Tyson: Who Will Win ... And What Happens Nex. Plus: Michael Moorer, Jeff Fenech, Charley Parham, Rafael & Juan Manuel Marquez.

Sept. 2002 (108-Page Extra): Vernon Forrest—Next Step In The Master Plan: End Mosley's Career. Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran, Ricardo Mayorga, 20 greatest lightweights.

☐ Mar/82 ☐ Feb/83 ☐ Mar/83 ☐ Apr/83 ☐ May/83 ☐ Jun/83 ☐ Aug/83 ☐ Sep/83 ☐ Nov/83 **All 8 $31** ☐ Feb/84 ☐ Jun/84 ☐ Jul/84 ☐ Sep/84 ☐ Oct/84 ☐ Dec/84 **All 6 $25** ☐ Jan/85 ☐ Feb/85 ☐ Mar/85 ☐ Apr/85 ☐ May/85 ☐ Jun/85 ☐ Aug/85 ☐ Oct/85 ☐ Nov/85

☐ Dec/85 **All 10 $37** ☐ Jan/86 ☐ Mar/86 ☐ Apr/86 ☐ May/86 ☐ Jun/86 ☐ Jul/86 ☐ Aug/86 ☐ Sep/86 ☐ Dec/86 **All 9 $34** ☐ Apr/87 ☐ May/87 ☐ Jun/87 ☐ Jul/87 ☐ Aug/87 ☐ Sep/87 ☐ Nov/87 ☐ Dec/87 **All 8 $31** ☐ Jan/88 ☐ Feb/88 ☐ Apr/88 ☐ May/88 ☐ Sep/88

☐ Oct/88 ☐ Nov/88 **All 7 $28** ☐ Jan/89 ☐ Feb/89 ☐ Mar/89 ☐ May/89 **All 4 $18** ☐ Jan/90 ☐ Feb/90 ☐ Mar/90 ☐ Apr/90 ☐ May/90 ☐ Jun/90 ☐ Jul/90 ☐ Aug/90 ☐ Sep/90 ☐ Nov/90 vDec/90 **All 11 $40** ☐ Jan/91 ☐ Mar/91 ☐ Apr/91 ☐ Jun/91 ☐ Jul/91 ☐ Aug/91

☐ Oct/91 vDec/91 **All 8 $31** ☐ Jan/92 ☐ May/92 ☐ Jul/92 ☐ Sep/92 ☐ Oct/92 ☐ Nov/92 **All 6 $25** ☐ Feb/93 ☐ Mar/93 ☐ Apr/93 ☐ May/93 ☐ Aug/93 ☐ Nov/93 **All 6 $25** ☐ Apr/94 ☐ May/94 ☐ Aug/94 ☐ Oct/94 ☐ Dec/94 **All 5 $22** ☐ Jan/95 ☐ May/95

☐ Jun/95 ☐ Jul/95 ☐ Oct/95 ☐ Dec/95 ☐ Wint/95 **All 7 $28** ☐ Jan/96 ☐ Feb/96 ☐ May/96 ☐ Sep/96 ☐ Nov/96 ☐ Dec/96 **All 6 $25** ☐ Jan/97 ☐ May/97 ☐ Jun/97 ☐ Jul/97 ☐ Oct/97 ☐ Nov/97 **All 6 $25** ☐ Jan/98 ☐ Feb/98 ☐ Mar/98 ☐ Apr/98 ☐ Jun/98 ☐ Jul/98

☐ Aug/98 ☐ Sep/98 nOct/98 **All 9 $34** ☐ Jan/99 ☐ Feb/99 ☐ Mar/99 ☐ Apr/99 ☐ May/99 ☐ Jun/99 ☐ Jul/99 ☐ Aug/99 ☐ Sep/99 ☐ Oct/99 ☐ Dec/99 ☐ Hol/99 **All 12 $43** ☐ Jan/00 ☐ Mar/00 ☐ Apr/00 ☐ May/00 ☐ Jun/00 ☐ Jul/00 ☐ Aug/00 ☐ Sep/00 ☐ Oct/00

☐ Dec/00 **All 10 $37** ☐ Jan/01 ☐ Feb/01 ☐ Mar/01 ☐ Apr/01 ☐ May/01 ☐ Jun/01 ☐ Jul/01 ☐ Aug/01 ☐ Sep/01 ☐ Oct/01 ☐ Nov/01 ☐ Dec/01 **All 12 $43** ☐ Jan/02 ☐ Feb/02 ☐ Mar/02 ☐ Apr/02 ☐ May/02 ☐ Jun/02 ☐ Jul/02 ☐ Aug/02 ☐ Sep/02 **All 9 $34**

In case of sellout, indicate two substitute choices: _____ _____

Please send me the back issues I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum). Send To:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: __/__ MO/YR

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent via surface mail, and $3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5936/05-02

MONSTER MASHED!

Can A New Tyson Emerge From The Rubble?

By Nigel Collins

Mike Tyson lay on his back staring up at the ring lights through blood-glazed eyes. Briefly, he raised his right arm and draped it across his face. It was a pose eerily reminiscent of the one Jack Johnson struck the scorching Havana afternoon he surrendered the heavyweight championship to Jess Willard. And although Johnson and Tyson were brought to this sorry state by two different sets of circumstances, Tyson, like Johnson, had become something of a social pariah.

Johnson, the first black heavyweight champion and a victim of racism, later claimed that he took a dive against

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

One of the main keys to Lewis' victory was his left jab, which he established in the early going, keeping Tyson off balance and setting up his lethal right hand. Overall, Lewis landed 109 of the 205 jabs he threw, for a connect rate of 53 percent.

Willard, as part of a deal that would allow him to reenter the United States following several years in exile. A lot of folks then and now don't believe Johnson, and think Willard whipped him fair and square. There's no question, however, about what Lennox Lewis did to Tyson. The reigning heavyweight champion not only flattened Tyson with one of the sweetest right hands you've ever seen, he beat him up first—beat him up bad.

But in defeat, both Johnson and Tyson gained something of value: Johnson got to go home again, and Tyson got to show the world that he wasn't the monster everybody branded him, at least not on the night of June 8 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Nonetheless, life is a tradeoff, and if Tyson did indeed earn a degree of respect with the courageous manner in which he took his beating and the gracious way he acted afterward, he also lost the last vestige of the mystique that has surrounded him for close to two decades. Lewis put to rest the dying myth of Tyson's greatness, and when it was over, the only thing that remained was a man, and as such, Tyson was finally an object of compassion.

Even before the uncompromising finish, Tyson looked small and mismatched, a bleeding, ineffectual fighter with nothing going for him except a fighter's heart and a hard head. Naturally, there will be those who delight in the one-sided beating he absorbed. And who can blame them after all the travesties this deeply flawed man has committed?

But the truth of the matter is that nobody is born a monster. Monsters are created, in no small way, in the imagination of others. The list of Dr. Frankensteins who helped cobble together Tyson is long and varied, but the public that lusted after his particular brand of terror is not without complicity. Even as he degenerated as a fighter and his bouts took on a carnival-like ambiance, they still worshiped at his altar of violence, lured perhaps by some dim recognition of the dark side that dwells within each of us.

Even so, nobody can deny that things sometime tend to get a bit out of hand where Tyson is concerned. There was, following the melee at the New York press conference where he bit Lewis' leg, a fear that Tyson would do something equally barbaric during the fight, especially if things didn't go well for him. But in this, if nothing else, Tyson fooled even his severest critics.

Instead of debasing himself by fouling, as Tyson has so often in the past, "he took his beating like a man," as Lewis and many others observed. And in the fight game, that still counts for something.

Tyson also earned points for his generous, if somewhat bizarre, postfight comments.

"I've known Lennox for 15 or 16 years," Tyson said before leaving the ring. "I have mad respect. He knows I love him

and his mother. And if he thinks I don't have respect and I don't love him, he's crazy.

"There's no way I could ever beat him. He's just too big and too strong. I'm just glad he didn't kill me. He's a magnificent fighter."

Tyson has said things like this before, most notably in the immediate aftermath of the first Holyfield fight. Not long afterward, when the knockout loss was replayed on Showtime, he changed his story, and whined about Vander's headbutts. But somebody had gotten to Tyson by then, somebody who didn't give a damn about such niceties as honor and giving credit where credit is due, somebody with an eye on the bottom line.

But even if Tyson has already perpetrated another outrage by the time you read this, in the passion of the moment, at a time of great personal trauma, he spoke the truth. And that counts for something, too.

"I think Mike came out a thoroughly beaten fighter, but he came out of it with credibility because he showed character after the fight and during the fight," Hall of Fame trainer Emanuel Steward told *USA Today*. "And I think from this point on—I might be wrong—I think Mike will be a better person."

We can only hope. But even if Tyson fails to build on what could be a new beginning, he'll always have the satisfaction of knowing he did the right thing at the very time when so many expected him to act like a psycho. He may be a sick man, but at some level the lessons of Cus D'Amato have stuck. Deep down, Tyson still has respect for the sport, and he knew that this might be his last moment on the heavyweight championship stage. Sure, he needed a little help from his corner to find the courage to lose with dignity, but sometimes that's what cornermen are for.

While the vast majority of the media picked Lewis to win, Tyson was not without significant support. He had massive backing among African-Americans, who understand that in some ways Tyson has been as much a victim of racism as Johnson. Then there were the fringe fans, the ones that haven't been paying very close attention to boxing for a number of years, and didn't seem to realize Tyson wasn't the same fighter he was in the late-1980s. It was weird walking around fight-happy Memphis and hearing so many locals and tourists saying they thought Tyson would win. Throw in all the Tyson haters willing to pay for the privilege of seeing him get his head handed to him, and you have a situation that created the richest prize fight in history.

The one thing all Tyson supporters shared is their belief in the fundamental

LEWIS TAKES THE BITE OUT OF TYSON

It was only the first round, but Mike Tyson had already survived a Lennox Lewis combination when he jammed a straight left into the Englishman's face that knocked him back a step or two. A roar went up from the crowd of 15,327 at The Pyramid, and it momentarily looked like Tyson actually had a chance of winning. But his early success proved nothing more than a fleeting flashback.

Dissipated by years of unchecked revelry and a steady diet of risk-free opponents, Tyson flamed-out early, his big guns spiked by Lewis' punishing counters. And when Lewis found the range and rhythm for his left jab in the second round, it was as good as over. Again and again, the 6'5" champion poked, snapped, and jammed his straight left into his challenger's face, and by the third, he'd opened a cut over Tyson's right eye.

You kept waiting for Tyson's frustration to boil over into some sort of scandalous act, but it never did. Perhaps that was because he'd noticed how finicky referee Eddie Cotton (USA) was being about the rules. By the end of the second, he'd already warned Lewis twice for holding.

It only got worse for Tyson, 234½, as the fight progressed. Lewis, 249¼, really began to unload with his right hand in the fourth, and when Tyson sagged dramatically after fielding one flush, Lewis leaned on him, folding him to the canvas. Although Tyson was hurt and may have dropped on his own, Cotton was technically correct to rule no knockdown. But the point he penalized Lewis seemed excessive.

While Lewis appeared content to take his time, the normally tranquil Emanuel Steward, clearly worried Tyson would plant a bomb on Lewis' sweet spot, wanted his man to get it over with as soon as possible.

"Get this motherf___er out of there," screamed the trainer. "He'll catch you with some s___ if you don't watch it."

The fifth was another Lewis jab-o-rama, but in the sixth and seventh, he landed a series of thunderous rights, any one of which would have finished most heavyweights.

"Those punches he was taking were hard," confirmed Lewis. "I was shocked he was able to take them, because I felt them right through my arm."

By the time Tyson lurched back to his corner at the end of the seventh, he was bleeding from cuts over both eyes and from the nose. His corner worked feverishly to stem the flow of blood and to convince Tyson to keep going. He winced in pain as the medicine-covered swabs plunged into his wounds, and you could tell that he was having second thoughts about going out for the eighth. But Ronnie Shields and Stacey McKinley pumped him up the best they could, and somehow Tyson found the guts to come out swinging in the eighth.

It wasn't long, however, before Lewis opened up with both hands. A left uppercut sliced home, followed immediately by a right uppercut. Tyson grimaced and slumped again, bending at the knees until he was in a deep squat. At that juncture, Cotton, who must have thought some part of

fallacy that he was once a great fighter. This much-held opinion is based on a misinterpretation, one in which aesthetic sensibility overrides common sense. You get a lot of that in myth building.

Yes, Tyson was blessed with an incredible combination of speed and power. Yes, he was exceedingly exciting. Yes, he tore through the ranks and unified the heavyweight title at a time when boxing desperately needed a dominant heavyweight champion. And yes, he looked like the "baddest man on the planet" doing it. But therein lays the illusion upon which the myth was built.

When you think about it, it was the *way* Tyson beat his opponents, not *who* they were that turned on the masses. His early fights were surreal, often teetering between pathos and comedy. Victims would fly across the ring, bounce off the floor, or drop in their tracks as if shot. It was mesmerizing to watch, and when WBC titleholder Trevor Berbick went down three times from one punch, the whole world fell in love with Tyson and his special brand of brutality.

Fans were so bewitched by the over-the-top violence of his fighting style and his malevolent image, they missed a crucial point: The fighters Tyson was mauling for our amusement were an ordinary lot at best.

If another fighter had beaten the men Tyson beat to unify the alphabet titles—Berbick, Tony Tucker, Bonecrusher Smith—nobody would have gotten excited. The guy he beat to win the linear title, Michael Spinks, was a frightened former light heavyweight. The cold, hard truth is that Tyson never beat a great fighter in his prime, not a fighter his own size anyway.

If you're still not convinced, go down the list of Tyson's other victims, and see for yourself: Pinklon Thomas (an admitted junkie), Tyrell Biggs (another substance abuser), Larry Holmes (three years removed from his title reign), Tony Tubbs (a feather-fisted fat guy), Frank Bruno (a china-chinned fighter with anxiety attacks). Razor Ruddock was legit, but nowhere close to great. And besides Holyfield and Lewis, let's not even bother talking about any of the guys he's fought since getting out of jail following his three-year stint for rape.

But the masses are seldom interested in details. By the time Tyson won his first belt, the public had already been sold. The indelible memory of a rapid-fire series of knockouts over a string of nobodies was etched so deeply in their collective conscience that they were convinced he was unbeatable. And even when that position proved untenable, excuses kept them faith-

Tyson's anatomy had touched the canvas, jumped in and gave him an eight-count.

Lewis maneuvered into position and uncorked one final right, which crashed into the side of Tyson's jaw with frightening force. He went down on his back, where he lay supine for most of Cotton's count. It was a devastating knockout, though it should be noted that Tyson, 49-4 (43) with 2 no-contests, was on one knee, struggling to get up when the ref reached 10 at the 2:25 mark.

"I did what I wanted to do," said Lewis after improving his record to 40-2-1 (31). "A lot of people didn't believe I was going to win this fight. But I knew what I was up against, and I knew I was the much superior fighter."

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Tyson is counted out on one knee

The stats, provided by CompuBox, emphasize just how superior he was. Lewis connected with a total of 193 punches (109 jabs, 84 powerpunches), compared to 49 connects for Tyson (20 jabs, 29 powerpunches).

Promoters: Lion Promotions, Main Events, Fight Night, Inc., in association with Prize Fight Promotions, LLC Presents

Television: HBO/Showtime Pay-Per-View (6-8-02)

—NC

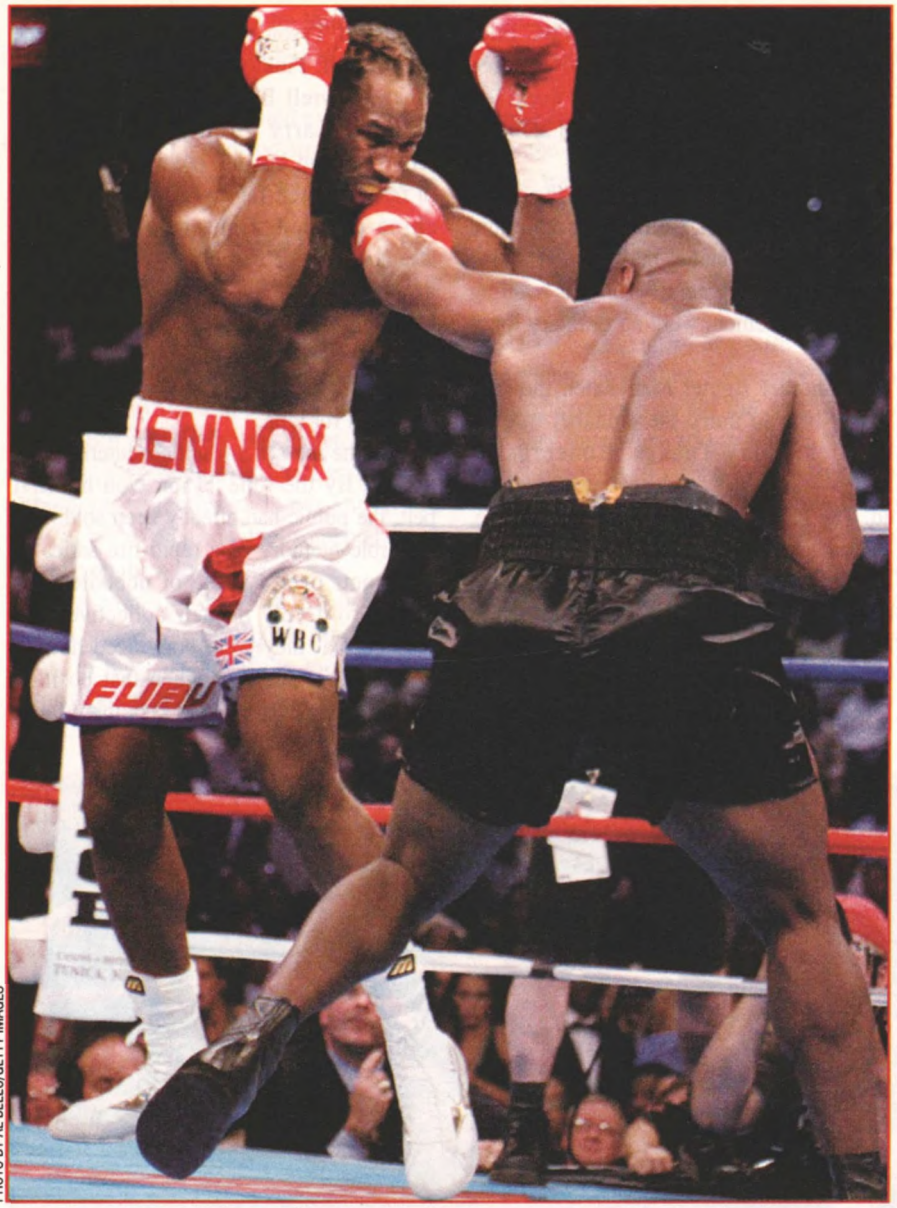


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Tyson got off to a promising start, stepping into Lewis with several strong left hands in the first round. But when Lewis began to catch him on the way in with counters, Tyson's attack fizzled out, and it quickly became a one-sided fight.

ful until Lewis shoved the truth so far down their throats and they were finally forced to open their eyes. After Lewis, the comforting old justifications suddenly don't work anymore.

If further proof was needed that the myth has been debunked and the monster defanged, the way Tyson virtually pleaded for a rematch was compelling confirmation.

"The payday was wonderful. I really appreciate it," gushed Tyson. "And if he would be kind enough, I would love to do it again."

But Steward gently cast things in a more realistic light.

"I don't think there will be any more fights with Mike Tyson," said the man largely responsible for molding Lewis into the fighter he is today.

But that doesn't mean there won't be any more fights *for* Tyson. It's just highly unlikely any of them will be with Lewis. Tyson's finances are such a god-awful mess, after his creditors, including Showtime, take their cuts, there won't be much left from the gigantic payday he received for fighting Lewis.

Cynics would claim that's why Tyson was on his best behavior in the first place. Only Tyson knows for sure.

Whatever the story, he's finished as a

THE PARTNERSHIP PAYS OFF

Mark Taffet, senior vice president of HBO Sports, was practically giddy with happiness in the aftermath of the Lewis-Tyson fight.

"I'm still pinching myself," said Taffet. "Who would have thought after January 22 [the date of the infamous press conference brawl that prompted Las Vegas to drop the fight] that it would ever happen? It was so taxing, and so difficult to find the right city to host the fight. But I kept going for two reasons: Lennox wanted the fight, and I wanted to set a new pay-per-view record."

Both men got their wish, as approximately 1.8 million households purchased the PPV, generating $103-million in revenue. The live gate of $17.5-million also set a new record, surpassing Lewis-Holyfield II ($16.8-million).

"Lewis and Tyson exceeded our expectations," said Donovan Gordon of Showtime, the cable network that teamed up with rival HBO for this unprecedented event.

But with Tyson's value greatly depreciated, and Lewis without another opponent anywhere near as attractive, has pay-per-view boxing reached its zenith?

"You never know," said Taffet. "You're always just one fighter or one fight away from a pay-per-view superfight."

—NC

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Tyson crashes down in the eighth round after absorbing a flush right to the chin. According to CompuBox, Lewis threw 123 powerpunches, and landed 84 of them. The final shot was a beauty that would have probably felled any heavyweight in the world.

legitimate title threat, and his mystique has been relegated to titillation status. About the only thing Tyson has going for him is an opportunity to grow as a man, an opportunity born out of defeat. It worked for George Foreman, although it took 10 years of stewing on the sidelines to bring the transformation about.

It has often been said how hard it is to envision a happy ending for Tyson, and he certainly won't improve his odds by retreating back into his thug persona. He'd best cling to the better part of himself, the part he dug down deep and found in losing to Lewis with dignity.

Like Mr. Hyde changing back into Dr. Jekyll at the moment of his death, Tyson became human in defeat. If it sticks, he might well look back one day and realize the worst thrashing he ever took in a boxing ring was actually a bargain. ■

WHAT'S LEFT FOR LENNOX?

As Lennox Lewis paraded around the ring celebrating his crushing victory of Mike Tyson, a peculiar sound filled the arena:

"A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight, walking in a Lewis wonderland," sang the British fans in tribute to the finest heavyweight the birthplace of modern boxing has ever produced.

And for the habitually underestimated heavyweight champion of the world, Memphis, Tennessee, must indeed have seemed like a wonderland. For it was there, in the steamy southern town best known as the home of Elvis Presley, that the Englishman of Jamaican heritage finally received the unanimous recognition that has been denied him for so long. Even those from the enemy camp were effusive in their praise.

"I said Lennox was a good fighter and that he needed to beat a great fighter," said Tyson's co-trainer Stacey McKinley. "As of now, Lennox is among the greats."

"I think this win tremendously enhances Lewis' legacy," said Showtime's Jay Larkin, a frequent critic of Lewis' style. "You can't deny that the guy is the best heavyweight alive today."

So where does Lewis go from here?

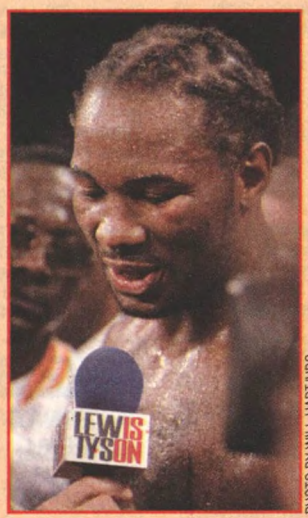


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Lewis has many options, including retirement

With his 37th birthday nearing, it would be a perfect time to bow out, especially now that the champ is expected to marry his longtime girlfriend, Aisha Mike. But retirement is unlikely, and if, as expected, he fights on, the opponent most fans would like to see him fight next is Wladimir Klitschko. But there are plenty of other possibilities, including mandatory IBF challenger Chris Byrd and the winner of the John Ruiz-Kirk Johnson bout. A third bout with Evander Holyfield is also a possibility, albeit a slim one, now that "The Real Deal" is back in the picture following his win over Hasim Rahman.

But whatever the future brings, Lewis will be hard pressed to top what he accomplished in Memphis.

"What more do you guys want me to do?" Lewis asked the media. "It's been a long road, and I've completed what I wanted to do. This was icing on the cake for Lennox Lewis."

Yes it was, and you could tell by the smile on his face that nothing had ever tasted better.

—NC

BOXING BACK ISSUE WAREHOUSE SALE!

Order now before our limited supplies are exhausted!

INTERNATIONAL BOXING

Feb. 1981: Gerry Cooney: One Fight Away From The Heavyweight Title. Also: Verderosa, Weaver-Coetzee, Spinks brothers, Ali.

Aug. 1981: Champion Sean O'Grady Rates His Contenders. Also: Rosario, Saad Muhammad-Sutherland, Leonard-Kalule preview, Louis.

Dec. 1981: Heavyweight Contender Greg Page: Is He Better Than Cooney? Also: Duran, Sanchez-Gomez, Taylor.

Feb. 1982: The Only Man Sugar Ray Leonard Is Afraid To Fight. Also: Escalera, Benitez-Duran, Robinson-LaMotta, Sims.

June 1982: Wilfred Benitz Eyes His Fourth World Title: Can He Beat Marvin Hagler? Also: Weaver, Buchanan, M. Spinks, Leonard.

Aug. 1982: Michael Spinks & Howard Davis Jr.: Different Destinies On The Road From Montreal. Also: Richard Sandoval, Big John Tate, Jimmy Bradock, 1956 in review.

Feb. 1983: Howard Davis Jr.: "Why I'll Win The Lightweight Title This Time!" Also: Snipes, Fletcher-Green, Mustafa Muhammad, Tubbs.

April 1983: "The Pain From The Tragedy Has Passed," By Ray Mancini. Also: Broad, Hearns-Benitez, 1982 in review.

Aug. 1983: Hector "Macho" Camacho: Even The Best Of Two Divisions Can't Halt His Charge To The Top. Also: Pryor-Arguello II preview, Rossman, Randolph, Collins.

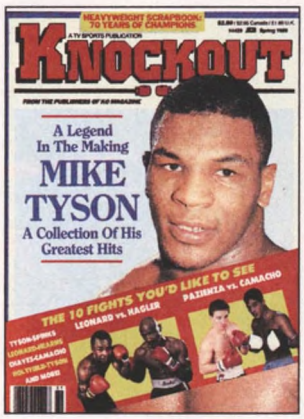
BIG BOOK OF BOXING

March 1980: The Man Who Guided Sugar Ray To The Top: Also: Norton, Tate-Coetzee, Gomez, Too Tall.

July 1981: The Welterweights: Where They Stand Today. Also: Saad Muhammad, WBA champs vs. WBC champs, Shavers, Conn.

Sept. 1982: The Fights We'd Like To See— Leonard-Hagler, Spinks-Braxton, Benitez-Ayala Jr., Arguello-Sanchez, Weaver-Dokes. Also: Liston-Foreman dream fight.

Jan. 1983: An Open Letter To Gerry Cooney: Fight Now—Or Forget It! Also: LaMotta, Duran, Corbett, Palomino-Gavilan dream fight.



July 1983: Michael Dokes: How He Can Restore The Decayed WBA Title. Also: Torres, Burns, young heavyweights, Patterson-Johansson, Pryor-Armstrong dream fight.

Nov. 1983: The Experts Rate Today's Fighters: The Best Of The Best. Willard, Madison Square Garden, Petrolle, Mancini-Buchanan dream fight.

March 1984: Suppose Sugar Ray Leonard Never Retired, Part I. Also: Tunney, lightweights, Pep-Pedroza dream fight.

July 1985: Championship Corner: Donald Curry vs. Colin Jones. Also: Napoles-Griffith, Ali, Charles, 10 meanest fighters, Spinks-Galindez dream fight.

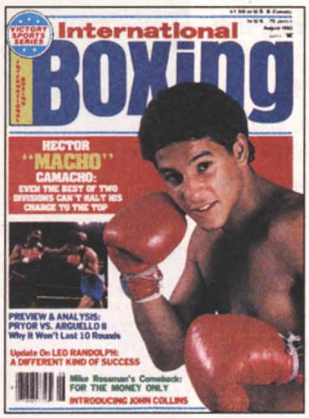
KO ANNUAL

1983 Edition: Superfight '83—Marvin Hagler vs. Roberto Duran. Previews & Analysis, full records and bios, who will win and why.

KNOCKOUT

Winter 1988: Sugar Ray Leonard vs. The All-Time Greats. Includes: Features on boxing's "young turks," heavyweight scrapbook part IV.

Spring 1988: A Legend In The Making—Mike Tyson: A Collection Of His Greatest Hits. Includes: Eight Tyson features, fights you'd like to see, heavyweight scrapbook (part I).



Summer 1988: Tyson vs. Spinks: A Preview Of The Heavyweight Showdown. Includes: Superfight preview, features on nine other superfights, heavyweight scrapbook (part II).

Winter 1989: Leonard vs. Duran: The Rubber Match. Includes: Best fights (1951-1976).

Spring 1989: The Year In Pictures: A Month-By-Month Recap Of 1988. Includes: Tyson, Bruno, Hearns, Armstrong.

Summer 1989: Leonard vs. Hearns: Their Past, Present, And Future. Includes: Chacon, Monzon, Marciano-Moore, Leonard-Robinson dream fight.

Fall 1989: The War That Didn't Settle The Score: Is Hearns-Leonard III Ahead? Includes: Saddler, Sanchez, heavyweight fights' last rounds, best of *KO* Interview.

Spring 1991: Evander Holyfield—The Stories Of His Success. Includes: Eight Holyfield features, Ali vs. Jack Johnson, Tony Ayala.

Spring 1992: The Greatest Punchers Of Our Time! Includes: Tyson, Arguello, Shavers, Foreman, Julian Jackson.

Winter 1992: The Dynamite Dozen—The Greatest Fighters Of The Past 25 Years. Includes: Ali, Duran, Napoles, Tyson, Chavez.

Spring 1993: Riddick Bowe & Lennox Lew... The Pride Of Two Nations. Includes: 12 full-... features and interviews with the reigning he... weight champs.

Summer 1993: The Multi-Division Gre... Includes: Leonard, Chavez, Armstrong, Carzo... and more.

Fall 1993: Controversy & Scandal—The M... Outrageous Boxing Stories Of The Past ... Years. Includes: Tyson, Leonard-Duran II, Cha... Taylor I, Whitaker-Ramirez, Panama Lewis, ... more.

Winter 1993: Middleweight Mania! The Best ... Pounders Of The Last 25 Years. Includ... Leonard, Toney, McCallum, Eubank, Monzon, ... more.

Summer 1994: Bombs Away! Boxing's Grea... Brawls. Includes: Foreman-Lyle, Pryor-Arg... Holyfield-Dokes, Cruz-McGuigan, and more.

SUPERSTARS & SUPERFIGHTS

May 1998: De La Hoya, Holyfield, Hamed, Hop... Blue Horizon. 36 all-color pages.

July 1998: Tyson, Tapia, Martin, Manfredy-Gatt... all-color pages.

September 1998: Lewis-Briggs, Chavez, Trin... Foreman, Phillips, De La Hoya, sluggers. 36... color pages.

Winter 1998: De La Hoya Special. Includes do... sided 21" x 30" poster.

Spring 1999: Holyfield vs. Lewis special. Previ... analysis, biofiles, tale of the tape, key questions, ... records, experts' picks.

THE RING DIGEST

Winter 1998: Roy Jones: "I'm Two Differ... People." Plus: De La Hoya, Bowe, Hamed, Var... Reid, Martin.

Summer 1998: Fighter Of The Year (Again!)... Exclusive Interview With Evander Holyf... Plus: Foreman, Campas, Lewis, De La Ho... Morales, Rijker, Tapia, Calzaghe, McCall, Ham... Gatti.

Fall 1998: Oscar De La Hoya: Will He Re... Undefeated? Plus: Hamed, Tyson, Trinidad, H... Lewis, Tate, Hopkins, Jones, McCullough, Gra...

SEND TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 Each

Please send me the back issues I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum).

Name_____

Address_____ Apt._____

City_____ State____ Zip_____

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: ____/____ MO/YR

Signature: _____

For all orders outside of the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be delivered by surface mail and $3 for everyback issue ordered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

WAREHOUSE SALE

INTERNATIONAL
- ☐ FEB/81
- ☐ AUG/81
- ☐ DEC/81
- ☐ FEB/82
- ☐ JUN/82
- ☐ AUG/82
- ☐ FEB/83
- ☐ APR/83
- ☐ AUG/83

BIG BOOK
- ☐ MAR/80
- ☐ JUL/81
- ☐ SEP/82
- ☐ JAN/83
- ☐ JUL/83
- ☐ NOV/83
- ☐ MAR/84
- ☐ JUL/85

KO ANNUAL
- ☐ 1983

KNOCKOUT
- ☐ WIN/88
- ☐ SPR/88
- ☐ SUM/88
- ☐ WIN/89
- ☐ SPR/89
- ☐ SUM/89
- ☐ FAL/89
- ☐ SPR/91
- ☐ SPR/92
- ☐ WIN/92
- ☐ SPR/93
- ☐ SUM/93
- ☐ FAL/93
- ☐ WIN/93
- ☐ SUM/94

STARS/FIGHTS
- ☐ MAY/98
- ☐ JUL/98
- ☐ SEP/98
- ☐ WIN/98
- ☐ SPR/99

DIGEST
- ☐ WIN/98
- ☐ SUM/98
- ☐ FAL/98

In case of sellout, please list alternate choice:_____

5909/05

RANKING THE BEST FIGHTERS IN THE WORLD

Compiled by the Editors

You see and hear the debate all the time, in Internet chat rooms, on *Friday Night Fights*, at the corner bar, and in the pages of this magazine. Bernard Hopkins or Roy Jones—who's the best, pound-for-pound? It's not an easy question to answer. Jones is more athletically gifted. But Hopkins, at least recently, has performed more consistently and beaten far better opposition. But Jones has beaten the better overall opposition in dominating three divisions over the last 10 years. But Hopkins has ruled one division over the last seven years like no one else. On and on it goes.

Now imagine having that debate inside your head 100 times over, and you have a sense of what it's like putting THE RING 100 together. Forget Jones vs. Hopkins. How about deliberating over Johnny Bredahl vs. Manny Pacquiao? Or Jesus Chavez vs. Evander Holyfield? Or Raul Balbi vs. Jean-Marc Mormeck? Pretty soon, the debate switches over to Advil vs. Tylenol.

But, as frustrating as it is, it's also fun. This is our seventh year ranking the 100 greatest fighters in the world on a pound-for-pound basis (it's the second year in THE RING, after a five-year run in our sister magazine *KO*), and it's fascinating to watch fighters bounce up and down the ratings like participants in a wild game of *Chutes & Ladders*. It's also fascinating shrinking or enlarging fighters in our heads to create these mythical pound-for-pound matchups and try to determine who belongs where.

THE RING 100 also provides an annual illustration of the changing face of boxing. This year, 23 fighters who weren't on the list in 2001 are now aboard. That, of course, means 23 guys on last year's list are now gone, including such notables as Mark Johnson, who ends a six-year run making the top 100 (including four top-10 finishes), and Mike Tyson, who is out for only the second time in seven years (he was suspended from boxing when the '98 list came out).

THE RING 100 is about answering two questions: What have you done for me lately, and what are you capable of doing. For Tyson, Johnson, and 21 others, the answers aren't as positive as they were last year. But for the 100 boxers who made the cut, there were obviously some good things to say, as of our June 20 deadline, about what they had done and what they are capable of. Ultimately, that's what it comes down to, a blend of ability and accomplishment, and from Hopkins and Jones on down, these are the 100 best in that regard.

1 BERNARD HOPKINS

World Middleweight Champion 41-2-1 (30) with 1 no-contest

Last Year's Ranking: 7
Status Report: Vaulted to number one with surprising 12th-round knockout of Felix Trinidad in September 2001 to become the first undisputed middleweight champion since Marvelous Marvin Hagler in '87. Solidified place among all-time middleweights with record-setting 15th title defense, against Carl Daniels (KO 10), which broke longstanding mark held by Carlos Monzon.
Future: With age (37) becoming a factor, "The Executioner" will look for huge payday against Oscar De La Hoya-Fernando Vargas winner, rematch with Trinidad, or catchweight bout with Roy Jones.

Hopkins scores career-defining win over Trinidad

2 ROY JONES

World Light Heavyweight Champion 46-1 (37)

Last Year's Ranking: 4
Status Report: Moved up two notches from last year based more on the upset losses of Felix Trinidad and Shane Mosley than on anything he did in the ring. Kept the light heavy title with victories over nondescript Julio Gonzalez (W 12) and Glen Kelly (KO 7).
Future: Rising clamor from fans and HBO to fight moderately talented opponent could force move up to cruiserweight against IBF titlist Vassiliy Jirov. Talk of facing Bernard Hopkins has also started up again.

3 MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA

Featherweight 54-3 (39)

Last Year's Ranking: 5
Status Report: Mexican star followed up last year's upset of Naseem Hamed with an imposing win over former 122-pound titlist Enrique Sanchez (KO 6). Rib injury forced postponement of much-anticipated Erik Morales rematch.
Future: If he prevails in rescheduled Morales rematch in June, additional pay-per-view bouts are on tap. Paulie Ayala is one possibility, or perhaps a rematch with Hamed.

4 VERNON FORREST

World Welterweight Champion 34-0 (26) with 1 no-contest

PHOTO BY HERBY WHYNE/SPORTZFRAME

Last Year's Ranking: 37
Status Report: Lanky boxer-puncher established himself as world's best 147-pounder with shocking upset of Shane Mosley (W 12) in January '02. Made biggest leap of anyone in the top 10, moving up 33 places from last year.
Future: Mosley rematch scheduled for July in Indianapolis. Intends to eventually move up to junior middle if successful.

Forrest hands Sugar Shane his first loss

5 FELIX TRINIDAD

Middleweight 41-1 (34)

Last Year's Ranking: 2
Status Report: Made to look one-dimensional by Bernard Hopkins in stunning 12th-round knockout loss last September. Bounced back nicely with dominating fourth-round kayo of Hassine Cherifi in May. Showed improved jab against Cherifi and knocked overmatched Frenchman down three times.
Future: Rematch with Hopkins is number one on "Tito's" agenda, but it might not be next.

6 SHANE MOSLEY
Welterweight 38-1 (35)

Last Year's Ranking: 1
Status Report: Tumbled from the top spot when 7-1 underdog Vernon Forrest stripped him of his perfect record via dominant 12-round decision in January. Showed toughness and heart, lasting the distance after nearly being kayoed in second round, but also showed he's not the flawless fighting machine we were beginning to believe he was.
Future: Give him credit for jumping right back in with July rematch against rangy, powerful Forrest. Sugar Shane's claims to greatness hang in the balance.

7 FLOYD MAYWEATHER
World Lightweight Champion 28-0 (20)

Last Year's Ranking: 3
Status Report: Closed out tremendous 130-pound run with an impressive beatdown of credible Jesus Chavez (KO 9), but kicked off 135-pound campaign with shaky, highly controversial win over Jose Luis Castillo (W 12) for the world lightweight title. Shortage of power was obvious against the Mexican.
Future: Scheduled for October 5 rematch against Castillo, and will have to win more decisively to avoid further pound-for-pound slippage.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Mayweather cracks Castillo with a right

8 KOSTYA TSZYU
World Junior Welterweight Champion 29-1-1 (23)

Last Year's Ranking: 13
Status Report: Australia-based Russian is on a tremendous run, having won 11 straight (including six wins against current or former titleholders) since lone loss five years ago. Blastout of Zab Judah (KO 2) for undisputed 140-pound title last November was a career highpoint, and near-shutout against Ben Tackie (W 12) in May was an absolute clinic.
Future: May take a well-earned gimme fight in Australia, against either Vince Phillips or mandatory Gianluca Branco. After that, has lots of attractive options.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Tszyu cruises past Tackie

9 OSCAR DE LA HOYA
WBC Super Welterweight Titleholder 34-2 (27)

Last Year's Ranking: 6
Status Report: Hasn't fought since last year's RING 100, as his own injury problems caused the cancellation of mandatory against Roman Karmazin and postponement of superfight with Fernando Vargas. Despite inactivity, remains in the top 10 due to undeniable talent and years of achievement at the highest level.
Future: Vargas fight set for September 14, then, if victorious, possible rematch with Felix Trinidad.

10 LENNOX LEWIS
World Heavyweight Champion 40-2-1 (31)

Last Year's Ranking: 21
Status Report: Made huge strides by spectacularly regaining the title from Hasim Rahman (KO 4) and then ending Mike Tyson's career as a serious title threat with a resounding eighth-round knockout. Three-time titleholder finally getting the recognition as possible all-time heavyweight great.
Future: Could walk away with his head high and his pockets full of money, but if he decides to carry on, Wladimir Klitschko would be the most attractive opponent. Chris Byrd also a possibility, as is John Ruiz-Kirk Johnson winner.

11 RICARDO LOPEZ

IBF Junior Flyweight Titleholder 50-0-1 (37)

Last Year's Ranking: 9
Status Report: Legendary Mexican mite continues his gradual descent down the list due to once-a-year fighting itinerary. This year, it was an impressive eighth-round knockout of former 105-pound beltholder Zolani Petelo, which showed "Finito" is still an absolute master at age 35.
Future: Nothing scheduled as of press time. A third fight with excellent WBA titlist Rosendo Alvarez is the only particularly attractive bout at 108 pounds (especially because it would crown a RING champion).

12 JOSE LUIS CASTILLO

Lightweight 45-5-1 (41)

Last Year's Ranking: 19
Status Report: Controversial points loss to Floyd Mayweather did more for status than all his wins put together, as most fans and many among the media thought the decision went to the wrong guy. Pair of earlier bouts with Steve Johnston (W 12, D 12) look even better in light of Johnston's comeback win over Alejandro Gonzalez.
Future: Gets his chance for revenge in October rematch with "Pretty Boy."

13 ERIK MORALES

WBC Featherweight Titleholder 41-0 (31)

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Last Year's Ranking: 10
Status Report: Tougher than expected defense against In Jin Chi (W 12) and the memory of controversial decisions over Marco Antonio Barrera and Guty Espadas have knocked some of the luster off undefeated record.
Future: July rematch with Barrera should be career-defining fight. A clear-cut win reestablishes classy boxer-puncher as Mexico's top fighter. Anything less, and reputation takes another hit.

Morales exchanges with Chi

14 FERNANDO VARGAS

WBA Super Welterweight Titleholder 22-1 (20)

Last Year's Ranking: 11
Status Report: Fan favorite regained a piece of the 154-pound title with convincing seventh-round kayo of respectable Shibata Flores in only action since last year's RING 100. End of legal troubles and reinvigorated training regime indicate new level of maturity.
Future: Finally gets a chance to fight hated rival Oscar De La Hoya in bout rescheduled for September. Victory will take him to true superstar level.

15 PAULIE AYALA

World Junior Featherweight Champion 34-1 (12)

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Last Year's Ranking: 15
Status Report: Outstanding performance in Bones Adams rematch (W 12) washed away the bad taste left by debatable decision in their first fight (W 12). Finally gathering recognition as one of the best little men in the business. Blue-collar work ethic and nice-guy persona also help at the box office.
Future: Top Rank wants to put him in with Barrera-Morales II winner at featherweight, but there are plenty of good matches left for Texan at 122 as well.

Ayala gets the better of Bones in the rematch

16 TIM AUSTIN
IBF Bantamweight Titleholder 24-0-1 (21)

Last Year's Ranking: 12
Status Report: Still the class of the division, but inactivity continues to eat away at his best years. Skillfully fought but dull victory over Ratanachai Vorapin (W 12) the only action the past 12 months.
Future: Thirty-one is practically ancient for a 118-pounder. Lack of punishing fights might mean the best is yet to come, but signs of age were visible versus Vorapin. Still, should be able to turn away Adan Vargas in scheduled July bout.

Austin does damage against Steve Dotse

PHOTO BY STEVE MATTEO/HBO

17 VEERAPOL SAHAPROM
WBC Bantamweight Titleholder 37-1-1 (26)

Last Year's Ranking: 16
Status Report: Remained active, fighting six times last year. Defended WBC bantamweight title three times, thwarting the challenges of Toshiaka Nishioka (D 12), Sergio Perez (W 12), and Julio Coronel (W 12), but showing a decline in power.
Future: Chances of a bantamweight unification match against IBF titleholder Tim Austin are remote. Will remain in Thailand, where he can bolster victory total and continue to be a star.

18 STEVE JOHNSTON
Lightweight 34-2-1 (16)

Last Year's Ranking: 23
Status Report: Logged one of his best performances against Alejandro Gonzalez (W 12) in picking up fourth-straight victory since drawing in WBC lightweight title rematch with Jose Luis Castillo. Is still among the best pure boxers in the game.
Future: Slated to take on dangerous Juan Lazcano, with the winner becoming a mandatory to the winner of Castillo-Floyd Mayweather II.

19 WINKY WRIGHT
IBF Junior Middleweight Titleholder 43-3 (25)

Last Year's Ranking: 22
Status Report: Veteran southpaw cutie finally captured a major title by dominating Robert Frazier (W 12) to take alphabet belt in December '01. First defense was one-sided victory over fringe contender Jason Papillion (KO 5).
Future: A threepeat against IBF mandatory Bronco McKart is next, but best chance to break into the major-money market would be a rematch with Fernando Vargas, provided "El Feroz" beats Oscar De La Hoya first. Otherwise, bout with Vernon Forrest-Shane Mosley winner is a possibility.

20 ROSENDO ALVAREZ
WBA Junior Flyweight Titleholder 31-2-1 (20)

Last Year's Ranking: 30
Status Report: Made impressive first defense of 108-pound belt with 12th-round kayo of Pichit C. Siriwat in January '01. Has history of self-destructive behavior, but dominating win over ex-titlist Siriwat may be a sign Alvarez has curbed his demons.
Future: Third fight with IBF counterpart Ricardo Lopez best bet for significant payday, but rubber match with mandatory challenger Bebis Mendoza also a possibility.

Alvarez batters outgunned Siriwat

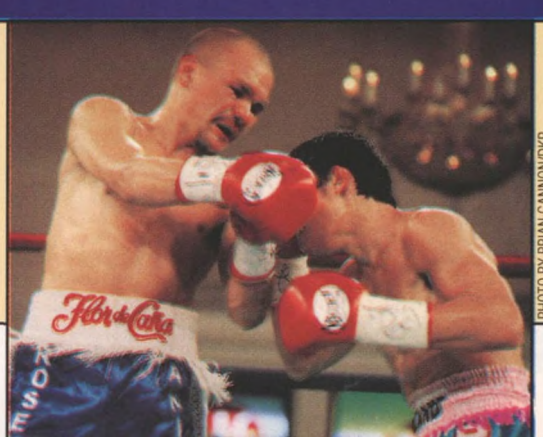


PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

21 ACELINO FREITAS

WBA Super Featherweight "Super" Titleholder 31-0 (29)

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Last Year's Ranking: 26

Status Report: Abandoned slugging style to win WBA 130-pound title, boxing way to a controversial 12-round decision over ex-Cuban Olympian Joel Casamayor in January '02. All three judges had it six rounds apiece, but Brazilian slugger got nod thanks to disputed knockdown call by referee Joe Cortez. Casamayor's roughhouse tactics also cost him a point.

Future: Mandatory defense against Daniel Attah, then possible lucrative payday against world lightweight champ Floyd Mayweather.

Freitas catches Casamayor with a left

22 JOEL CASAMAYOR

Junior Lightweight 27-1 (17)

Last Year's Ranking: 25

Status Report: Narrow loss to Acelino Freitas (L 12) hurt, but the controversial nature of the call left some wiggle room. Came back with solid win over rugged Juan Arias (KO 8).

Future: Has the tools to beat Freitas if lucky enough to get another chance, but must stay away from the roughhouse tactics that cost him a point the first time. As WBA mandatory challenger, may get a shot at beltholder Yodsanan Nanthachai in the meantime.

23 NASEEM HAMED

Featherweight 36-1 (31)

Last Year's Ranking: 8

Status Report: It's looking more and more like humiliating loss to Marco Antonio Barrera in April '01 took all the fight out of "The Prince." After waiting 13 months to come back, he looked terribly ordinary against hand-picked opponent Manuel Calvo (W 12).

Future: Autumn fight with Johnny Tapia appears likely. Considering the way Tapia looked in his last fight, Naz will probably be the favorite, but he'll have be better than he was against Calvo.

24 DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI

Light Heavyweight 46-0 (36)

Last Year's Ranking: 18

Status Report: The record may be glossy, but the shine is coming off the fighter as his performance quality slips and as a Roy Jones fight falls farther off the radar. Struggled mightily before winning via controversial stoppage over Richard Hall (KO 11), and win over clubfighter Joey DeGrandis (KO 2) proved nothing.

Future: WBO mandatory Clinton Woods is more interested in a fight with Jones, but either way, don't expect the German-based "Tiger" to step in with anybody too threatening.

25 ERIC HARDING

Light Heavyweight 21-1-1 (7)

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Last Year's Ranking: 51

Status Report: Only one fight since last year for slippery southpaw, but it was a good one, an unusually aggressive showing against previously unbeaten George Jones (KO 7). Close loss to Roy Jones and win over Antonio Tarver, both in 2000, keep looking better with time, earning Connecticut-based fighter growing recognition as possibly the world's second-best light heavy.

Future: July 20 rematch against improved Tarver on HBO is a risk, but the winner, in theory, earns a crack at Jones.

Harding flashes some pop against George Jones

26 YOSAM CHOI

WBC Light Flyweight Titleholder 24-1 (13)

Last Year's Ranking: 29

Status Report: Long regarded as a highly skillful fighter, Korean continued to show improving power in battering Shingo Yamaguchi (KO 10) in lone in-ring appearance this year. Yamaguchi, though not a world-beater, was riding an 11-fight winning streak entering the fight.

Future: Oft-delayed bout with "interim champion" Jorge Arce set for July 7.

27 JOE CALZAGHE

Super Middleweight 33-0 (27)

Last Year's Ranking: 32

Status Report: Fight with undeserving Will McIntyre (KO 4) didn't do anything for Q-rating, but decisive win over former titlist Charles Brewer (W 12) substantiated claims that Welshman is the top dog in weak super middleweight division. All-important American exposure continues to grow.

Future: A fight with IBF king Sven Ottke won't happen, and middleweight champ Bernard Hopkins is a longshot too, but a bout with WBC titleholder Eric Lucas may be in the offing.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Calzaghe proves too much for Brewer

28 MASAMORI TOKUYAMA

WBC Super Flyweight Titleholder 26-2-1 (7)

Last Year's Ranking: 46

Status Report: North Korea's first beltholder showed continuing improvement, turning back challenges from accomplished veteran Gerry Penalosa (W 12) and Kazuhiro Ryuko (KO 9) to tally third and fourth defenses of alphabet title.

Future: August 26 defense against Mexican journeyman Erick Lopez shouldn't be too taxing, but proposed November rematch against former titleholder Penalosa is a real challenge. The decision won by the Japanese-based Korean in their first fight was a narrow one.

29 JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ

Featherweight 38-2 (30)

Last Year's Ranking: 64

Status Report: Jumped back into the spotlight with impressive victory over Robbie Peden (KO 10) on HBO, following a lengthy period of semi-obscurity. Hasn't tasted defeat since controversial loss to then-WBA 126-pound titlist Fred Norwood in 1999.

Future: Some insiders have called him "the best fighter not currently wearing a title belt," and providing he keeps winning, there's little doubt he'll get a chance to prove them right.

30 RICARDO MAYORGA

WBA Welterweight Titleholder 24-3-1 (22) with 1 no-contest

Last Year's Ranking: not rated

Status Report: Wild swinging Nicaraguan made a big hit with U.S. fans by blasting out previously undefeated Andrew "Six Heads" Lewis (KO 5) to take WBA belt. Beer guzzling, cigarette-smoking antics immediately after title-winning bout created bigger buzz than upset victory.

Future: Should create interest and keep belt, providing he stays away from Vernon Forrest-Shane Mosley rematch winner. First defense may come against ordinary Felix Flores.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Mayorga levels Lewis with a right

31 HARRY SIMON
Middleweight 23-0 (17)

Last Year's Ranking: 43
Status Report: Comprehensive triumph over previously unbeaten Armand Kranjc (W 12) positioned Namibian right behind Bernard Hopkins and Felix Trinidad among world's best 160-pounders. Also beat Hassine Cherifi (W 12) since last ranking.
Future: Wants Hopkins, but needs to establish himself in the U.S, where he's never fought, for match to make economic sense.

32 SVEN OTTKE
IBF Super Middleweight Titleholder 27-0 (5)

Last Year's Ranking: 40
Status Report: The tough and skillful German advanced with four more title defenses, turning back the challenges of James Butler (W 12), Anthony Mundine (KO 10), Rick Thornberry (W 12), and Thomas Tate (W 12) to bring his division-record total to 14.
Future: A showdown with Joe Calzaghe would be nice, but probably won't happen. Popular beltholder more likely to continue racking up mid-level defenses at home.

33 JOHNNY BREDAHL
WBA Bantamweight Titleholder 52-2 (26)

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Smooth-boxing veteran tallied career-best win, stopping Eidy Moya (KO 9) for WBA belt. The result itself was a minor upset, but considering the Dane's knockout percentage, the fact that the win came via kayo was an even bigger surprise. Only losses came against Wayne McCullough and Paulie Ayala in title fights.
Future: Good enough to compete with Tim Austin or Veerapol Sahaprom, but can probably earn more money defending in Europe.

Bredahl gives Ayala more than he bargained for

34 MANNY PACQUIAO
IBF Junior Featherweight Titleholder 34-2-1 (25)

Last Year's Ranking: 28
Status Report: Inactivity and an inconclusive struggle with Agapito Sanchez (Tech. Draw 6) caused a falloff from last year's lofty ranking. But quick annihilation of Jorge Eliecer Julio (KO 2) helped.
Future: HBO loves his all-action style, so we should see more of the Filipino "Pac-Man" in coming months.

Pacquiao grows frustrated with Sanchez' dirty tactics

35 SHARMBA MITCHELL
Junior Welterweight 48-3 (29)

Last Year's Ranking: 42
Status Report: Won 10-round decision over Bernard Harris in March '02, breaking 13-month inactive spell after disheartening seventh-round TKO loss to Kostya Tszyu that cost him WBA 140-pound title. Mitchell's gutty performance against Tszyu, in which he fought on an injured knee, was made more impressive by Zab Judah's quick exit against the hard-punching Russian expatriate.
Future: Wants another crack at Tszyu, and bouts with either Judah or local rival DeMarcus Corley could earn him that chance.

36 ZAB JUDAH
Junior Welterweight 27-1 (21) with 1 no-contest

Last Year's Ranking: 14
Status Report: Speedster was poised to take over junior welter class, but had his plans—and brains—scrambled by perfectly planted right to the chin from Kostya Tszyu. "Super Judah's" fall from grace took deeper twist when postfight antics drew a six-month suspension.
Future: Wants a rematch with Tszyu, but the champ has said an attitude adjustment is necessary before he'll consider the Brooklyn southpaw deserving. First, a comeback fight against steady Omar Weis.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Judah's rep goes crashing against Tszyu

37 BONES ADAMS
Junior Featherweight 41-5-3 (19)

Last Year's Ranking: 35
Status Report: Lost controversial 12-round decision to Paulie Ayala in August '01, then blew the rematch, losing a one-sided decision in February '02 with world championship on the line. Seems to have solved hand problems that plagued him through early part of career, but party-hardy lifestyle has been a drawback.
Future: There's been talk of an HBO fight with Manny Pacquiao. Still has the talent to compete with any 122-pounder, but motivation may be slipping after 12 years as a pro.

38 PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM
WBC Flyweight Titleholder 44-2 (25)

Last Year's Ranking: 57
Status Report: Powerful Thai has been busy and brutally effective since winning the WBC belt, making four defenses in a nine-month span. Wins over Hayato Asai (KO 5), Alex Baba (Tech. Win 8), and Luis Lazarte (KO 2) were all impressive, but none compare to 34-second blastout of previously unbeaten Daisuke Naito, the fastest kayo in flyweight title history.
Future: Mandatory challenger Alexandre Mahmutov of Russia has a solid resume, but shouldn't be a threat to explosive young titlist.

39 ERIC MOREL
WBA Flyweight Titleholder 31-0 (17)

Last Year's Ranking: 33
Status Report: His "Little Hands Of Steel" have been cuffed more than gloved the last 12 months, as a series of drunk driving arrests have stalled boxing career of Wisconsin-based flyweight. Only one fight since last year, a non-title bout with Alex Baba (W 10) in his native Puerto Rico.
Future: Top Rank has had difficulty promoting the '96 Olympian, thanks to his low-profile weight class, sometimes unappealing style, and out-of-the-ring problems. Unfortunately, those issues seems unlikely to improve anytime soon.

40 ANTONIO MARGARITO
Welterweight 26-3 (18) with 1 no-contest

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Mexican emerged as a top-five welterweight with hard-fought victory over respected veteran Antonio Diaz (KO 10). An excellent bodypuncher with above-average skills, power, and heart, his only losses came by decision more than six years ago.
Future: A bout with capable Danny Perez, whom he defeated by eight-round split decision in '99, may happen in late-summer or early-fall.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Margarito's uppercut finds Diaz' chin

41 ALEXANDER MUNOZ
WBA Super Flyweight Titleholder 22-0 (22)

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Massacred Celes Kobayashi (KO 8) in March to claim WBA 115-pound title, showing the power that has made the 23-year-old boxing's only current beltholder with a perfect kayo percentage. Venezuelan earned title shot with excellent win over highly respected Sornpichai Pisnurachank (KO 5) in '00.
Future: Potentially easy July defense in Osaka, Japan, against Eiji Kojima, a veteran of just seven fights, may be a buildup to showdown with WBC counterpart Masamori Tokuyama for RING title.

42 VASSILIY JIROV
IBF Cruiserweight Titleholder 31-0 (27)

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

Last Year's Ranking: 45
Status Report: Has emerged as clear-cut choice for top man at 190—partially by default, thanks to collapse of Virgil Hill and departure of Juan Carlos Gomez. Scored three wins since last year, testing heavyweight waters against Adolpho Washington (W 10), and turning back challenges of Julian Letterlough (KO 8) and Jorge Castro (W 12).
Future: Tough to tell if on-again-off-again discussions with Roy Jones will lead anywhere. James Toney remains Kazakh slugger's next best option.

Jirov powers past Letterlough

43 MANUEL MEDINA
Featherweight 60-12 (27)

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Grizzled veteran, who's been fighting professionally for more than half his life, just won't go away. Won his fourth featherweight belt by beating then-IBF boss Frankie Toledo (KO 6), and improved stature tremendously by picking apart Johnny Tapia in first defense, only to lose a highly dubious decision.
Future: Obviously still a player at age 31, but the IBF strap was his bargaining chip for money fights. Hoping for shot at Barrera-Morales winner.

Medina tattoos Tapia

44 JOHNNY TAPIA
IBF Featherweight Titleholder 52-2-2 (28)

Last Year's Ranking: 17
Status Report: Finally showed his age in getting outmaneuvered for the better part of 12 rounds by clever Manuel Medina, though the scorecards somehow had Albuquerque's favorite son ahead. Despite officially winning, topples down the pound-for-pound list, as once-blazing speed appears, at age 35, to be abandoning him.
Future: Should give Medina a rematch, but instead will probably cash in against Naseem Hamed. You can't really blame him.

45 DeMARCUS CORLEY
Junior Welterweight 27-1-1 (16)

Last Year's Ranking: 96
Status Report: Needs to be more active, but speedy sharpshooter confirmed that he belongs near the top of talent-rich 140-pound class with dominating win over Ener Julio (W 12). Wacky ring outfits make him easily identifiable to fans.
Future: Possible fight with England's Junior Witter calculated to set up money-spinning showdown with British box office king Ricky Hatton.

46 RAFAEL MARQUEZ
Bantamweight 27-3 (25)

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Hard-hitting Mexican became the first to defeat former pound-for-pound entrant Mark "Too Sharp" Johnson in more than a decade, first via controversial decision, then by conclusive eighth-round knockout in rematch.
Future: Younger brother of featherweight contender Juan Manuel has the moves and punch to topple any 118-pounder, but chin—all three losses came inside the distance—could be fatal flaw. Is mandatory challenger to IBF boss Tim Austin.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Marquez extends a left in Johnson rematch

47 PAUL SPADAFORA
IBF Lightweight Titleholder 35-0 (14)

Last Year's Ranking: 44
Status Report: Victory over Angel Manfredy (W 12) double-edged sword. It proved "Spaddy" can beat a genuine world-class fighter, but also highlighted lack of punch and negative style. But they still love him in Pittsburgh, where SRO crowd turned out for Manfredy fight.
Future: A big-money bout with Floyd Mayweather is likely, but an August 17 match on HBO, probably against Artur Grigorian, will be first.

48 WILLIAM JOPPY
WBA Middleweight Titleholder 33-2-1 (24)

Last Year's Ranking: 38
Status Report: Well-schooled boxer-puncher rebounded well from devastating kayo loss to Trinidad by beating previously undefeated Brit Howard Eastman (W 12). Hard-fought victory proved loss to "Tito" hadn't been ruinous, and also earned D.C. vet WBA belt for third time.
Future: Still part of Don King's stable, which makes him a candidate for a shot at world champ Hopkins, who's also promoted by King.

49 LEONARD DORIN
WBA Lightweight Titleholder 21-0 (7)

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Sawed-off slugger came out of nowhere to take belt from Raul Balbi (W 12) in brutal punchout that could have gone either way. Was dominant in rematch, retaining the title via 12-round decision in late-May.
Future: All-action style matches up well with any 135-pounder, but as 10,000 fans turned out in Bucharest for second Balbi match, we might not see much of Romanian beltholder on this side of the Atlantic for a while. One fight that may lure him back is unification with Paul Spadafora, a fight HBO is interested in.

50 DIOBELYS HURTADO
Junior Welterweight 35-2-1 (23)

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Former amateur star finally won a major fight, coming off the floor to kayo vicious-hitting Randall Bailey (KO 7) in wild shootout. Pernell Whitaker and Kostya Tszyu stopped Cuban political refugee in previous title tries.
Future: Wants Tszyu, whom he decked twice before crumbling. Association with Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing should enhance chances of securing lucrative bouts.

PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON

Hurtado rattles the rib cage of Ricky Quiles

51 BEBIS MENDOZA
Junior Flyweight 28-1 (23)

Last Year's Ranking: 47
Status Report: Kept moderately active with a pair of tuneup wins since last year, defeating Edilberto Julio (KO 2) and Manny Melchor (W 8). Colombian made his name in two previous fights with the excellent Rosendo Alvarez, defeating him by disqualification, then losing the rematch on a razor-thin decision.
Future: Rated number one by the WBA, so expect a rubber match with titleholder Alvarez.

52 WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
Heavyweight 38-1 (35)

Last Year's Ranking: 56
Status Report: Progression of potential heir to heavyweight throne slowed slightly, as he had just two fights, neither against a dangerous opponent. Easily beat Charles Shufford (KO 6) and Frans Botha (KO 8), while similar result against washed-up David Izon was prevented by injury to Ukrainian giant.
Future: Assuming he's beaten aged but dangerous Ray Mercer by the time you read this, belongs at the front of the line for a title shot.

53 CHRIS BYRD
Heavyweight 35-2 (20)

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Last Year's Ranking: 100
Status Report: Brilliant boxing exhibition against knockout artist David Tua (W 12) gave feather-fisted nice guy a huge boost. Only other action was a stay-busy win over Jeff Pegues (KO 3).
Future: As IBF mandatory, due for next shot at Lennox Lewis. Matchup appears to heavily favor the champion, but challenger would certainly pull down career-high payday for his troubles.

Byrd proves too slick for Tua

54 OSCAR LARIOS
Junior Featherweight 44-3-1 (31)

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: "Chololo" has been on a roll the last three years, upsetting Cesar Soto (W 12), outfighting WBC 122-pound titlist Willie Jorrin but losing a bogus 12-round decision, and knocking out Israel Vazquez (KO 12) in a barnburner to earn another shot at Jorrin. Young veteran gets additional credit for keeping busy against world-class guys in between aforementioned bouts.
Future: Possible September date for Jorrin rematch, but the big question is whether it will be in Sacramento.

55 JESUS CHAVEZ
Junior Lightweight 36-2 (25)

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Last Year's Ranking: 55
Status Report: Gave a determined effort in losing WBC title challenge against Floyd Mayweather (KO by 9), applying heavy pressure and winning a round or two before being worn down. Bounced right back with easy win over clubfighter Gerardo Zayas (KO 3).
Future: Attractive showdown with fellow Mayweather victim Carlos Hernandez has been mentioned. A win there should earn "El Matador" another shot at a belt.

Chavez puts the pressure on Mayweather

56 EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Heavyweight 38-5-2 (25)

Last Year's Ranking: 74
Status Report: Headbutt controversy notwithstanding, the 39-year-old former champion looked better beating Hasim Rahman via eighth-round technical decision than he has since stopping Michael Moorer in 1997.
Future: When Mike Tyson went down, "The Real Deal's" hopes for a title shot may have gone down with him. Might get a shot at de-valued WBA title, however, pending outcome of John Ruiz-Kirk Johnson fight.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Holyfield revives career with win over Rahman

57 ANTONIO TARVER
Light Heavyweight 19-1 (16)

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Back-to-back emphatic wins over top-10 opponents Chris Johnson (KO 10) and Reggie Johnson (W 12) showed that bruising unanimous-decision loss to Eric Harding in June '00 didn't ruin "The Magic Man." In fact, with new trainer Buddy McGirt in tow, '96 Olympian now seems to be fighting better than ever.
Future: Looking for revenge against Harding in co-feature to Vernon Forrest-Shane Mosley II, and is risking his IBF number-one rating to get it.

58 HAWK MAKEPULA
Flyweight 20-1 (13)

Last Year's Ranking: 49
Status Report: After lengthy inactivity following disputed decision loss to IBF titlist Irene Pacheco, returned with two solid wins, beating Roy Doliguez (W 10) and Melvin Magramo (KO 7). South African Olympian's inactive spell was primarily due to stalled negotiations for Pacheco rematch.
Future: Slated to face countryman Mzukisi Sikali, a veteran southpaw, on August 24.

59 IRENE PACHECO
IBF Flyweight Titleholder 26-0 (20)

Last Year's Ranking: 50
Status Report: "Mambaco" fought only once in the past 12 months, but looked sharp blowing out overmatched Mike Trejo (KO 4) in San Antonio, Texas, last November. Colombian is definitely one of the top four or five flyweights in the game, but he needs to get busier; four defenses in a three-year reign just isn't cutting it.
Future: Has no mandatory challenger and no fight on tap. A rematch with Hawk Makepula makes sense, but discussions haven't led anywhere.

60 MICKY WARD
Junior Welterweight 38-11 (27)

Last Year's Ranking: 82
Status Report: It's been a heckuva year for "Irish Micky," who won both the 2001 Fight of the Year and the probable 2002 Fight of the Year. Close 10-round decision wins over Emanuel Burton and Arturo Gatti were both eked out by virtue of the Massachusetts veteran's magnificent heart and crushing left to the liver.
Future: Gatti fight showed he's not on the way out, but at 36, the time to cash in is now. Expect a million-dollar rematch with Gatti.

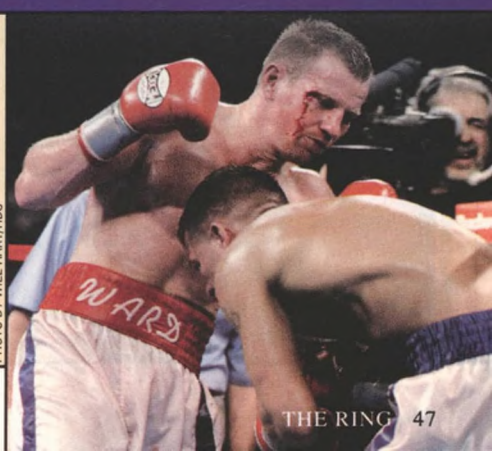


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Ward hurts Gatti with his left to the body

61 JESSE JAMES LEIJA

Junior Welterweight 43-5-2 (17) with 1 no-contest

Last Year's Ranking: 99
Status Report: Career resurgence continued with five-round technical win over Micky Ward in January. The result was inconclusive, but the popular Texan was clearly outboxing the slow-starting Ward until the fight was prematurely halted by a cut.
Future: Has been talking of retirement for the last couple of years, but HBO and the fans like him, and there's still money to be made.

62 ARTURO GATTI

Junior Welterweight 34-6 (28)

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Who else could be in line for a million-dollar payday despite losing five of his last 10 fights? Reestablished himself as a contender by starching Terronn Millett (KO 4), and reestablished himself as a superstar in his epic war with Micky Ward (L 10). Some are now calling him the greatest TV fighter of all-time.
Future: Probably a rematch with Ward, but HBO would pay him handsomely to fight just about anyone.

Gatti boxes his way past Millett

63 GERRY PENALOSA

Junior Bantamweight 45-4-2 (30)

Last Year's Ranking: 63
Status Report: Former WBC 115-pound boss still world class, but has lost last two title tries, most recently to Masamori Tokuyama (L 12). Comeback wins over Oscar Andrade (W 12) and Joel Avila (Tech. Win 8) show he's serious about trying again.
Future: At 31, southpaw may not have too many good years left, but longtime relationship with WBC should allow him to make the best of career twilight.

64 ANTWUN ECHOLS

Super Middleweight 27-4-1 (24)

Last Year's Ranking: 71
Status Report: Dangerous slugger remains player in the 168-pound division based more on what he's done in the past, rather than the pair of marking-time fights—Kabary Salem (W 12), Lawrence Chapman (W Disq. 5)—he's had since last year's RING 100.
Future: Crowd-pleasing brawler figures to stay busy on ESPN2's *Friday Night Fights* until title shot rolls around.

65 HOWARD EASTMAN

Middleweight 32-1 (29)

PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Lanky, power-punching Brit gave William Joppy a very tough fight and was a bit unlucky not to get the nod in his first fight outside of the U.K. Instead of following up strong performance, former British and European champ pretty much dropped out of sight following Joppy loss.
Future: Capable of giving any 160-pounder south of Hopkins and Trinidad a tussle, but needs additional exposure in U.S. to obtain marquee matchups. First, a bout with European champ Morrade Hakkar in the fall.

Eastman battles to hairline loss to Joppy

66 ANGEL MANFREDY
Lightweight 40-6-1 (29) with 1 no-contest

Last Year's Ranking: 48
Status Report: Earned a shot at IBF beltholder Paul Spadafora by handing hot prospect Julio Diaz his first loss, via controversial decision. Faltered against defensive-minded "Spaddy" (L 12), failing to let his hands go when he worked his way inside.
Future: Although still a serious proposition for most lightweights, with four failed title challenges behind him, gatekeeper role is the most likely.

PHOTO BY STEVE MATTEO/HBO

Manfredy soaks up a devil of a left from Diaz

67 FRANCISCO CASTILLEJO
Junior Middleweight 53-5 (36)

Last Year's Ranking: 69
Status Report: Although thoroughly beaten by Oscar De La Hoya in 2001, rugged Spaniard lasted the distance and wasn't embarrassed, which has allowed him to remain popular back home, where he's rebuilt with wins over Pierre Moreno (KO 7) and Xavier Moya (KO 5).
Future: May face Roman Karmazin in a bout to determine WBC's next challenger to De La Hoya-Fernando Vargas winner.

68 FERNANDO MONTIEL
Flyweight 23-0-1 (17)

Last Year's Ranking: 67
Status Report: Just one fight in the last 12 months, a slightly shaky win over Jose Lopez that saw the 23-year-old Mexican bomber rise from a ninth-round knockdown to take a unanimous decision. Inactivity partially the result of the delay to the Marco Antonio Barrera-Erik Morales II card, on which the unbeaten flyweight contender was scheduled to appear against Pedro Alcazar.
Future: Will have fought Alcazar for a minor 115-pound belt by the time you read this.

69 JUAN LAZCANO
Lightweight 29-2-1 (22)

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Constantly improving El Paso native continued to prove himself a worthy 135-pound contender with wins over Julio Alvarez (KO 4) and Julio Sanchez-Leon (KO 8). A pleasing TV fighter who hits hard and gets hit in return.
Future: Expected to fight former titleholder Stevie Johnston, with the winner to become Floyd Mayweather's mandatory. "The Hispanic Causing Panic" is the underdog, but youth and power are on his side.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Lazcano rips into Alvarez with an uppercut

70 KIRK JOHNSON
Heavyweight 32-0-1 (23)

Last Year's Ranking: 73
Status Report: No action since last report. Talented but inconsistent Canadian has been sitting on number-one WBA rating that he earned by outpointing Larry Donald in July '01.
Future: Should have fought John Ruiz by the time this issue hits the newsstands. The guess here is that the belt will have changed hands by then. If so, may be in line for shot at fellow Canadian Olympian Lennox Lewis.

71 DERRICK GAINER
WBA Featherweight Titleholder 38-5 (24)

Last Year's Ranking: 62
Status Report: Title reign is going up in "Smoke," as the WBA beltholder hasn't fought since beating Victor Polo in February '01. Falling out with then-manager Roy Jones spoiled defense against Juan Manuel Marquez, and mandatory against Daniel Seda has been delayed several times.
Future: Still waiting for the dangerous-but-winnable Seda fight to be rescheduled.

72 MARTIN CASTILLO
Junior Bantamweight 21-1 (13)

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Seemed very unlucky to lose unbeaten tag vs. IBF 115-pound titlist Felix Machado via sixth-round technical decision. The aggressive Mexican had the defending beltholder under heavy pressure when an accidental clash of heads opened a cut on the challenger's scalp. There was lots of blood, but it wasn't running into Castillo's eyes when ring doc called a halt. Then came the dubious scoring.
Future: If there's any justice, a rematch with Machado.

Castillo and Machado let the leather fly

73 FELIX MACHADO
IBF Junior Bantamweight Titleholder 22-3-1 (11)

Last Year's Ranking: 81
Status Report: Light-punching slickster's only outing since last rating was the inconclusive win over Martin Castillo. Tall Venezuelan moves well and has good but not impregnable defense, as Castillo proved.
Future: A rematch with Castillo would be the right thing to do.

74 BYRON MITCHELL
WBA Super Middleweight Titleholder 24-1-1 (17)

Last Year's Ranking: 76
Status Report: Made just one defense in past year, winning a questionable split decision over Manuel Siaca in a fight that saw the beltholder down and nearly out in the 12th round. Has the power to beat anyone in the mediocre 168-pound division, but inconsistency has kept him mired in the lower regions of the RING 100.
Future: Set for an off-TV defense on the John Ruiz-Kirk Johnson undercard, probably against faded Julio Cesar Green.

75 STEVE FORBES
IBF Junior Lightweight Titleholder 20-1 (5)

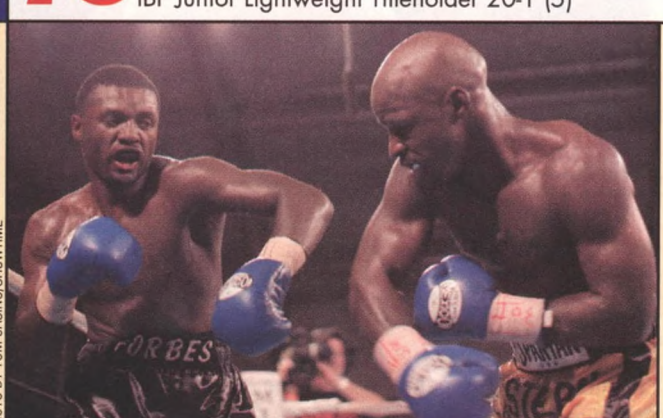


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Last Year's Ranking: 85
Status Report: Proved title-winning effort vs. John Brown was no fluke by winning a one-sided decision in the September '01 rematch. Unfortunately, the well-schooled but feather-fisted "Two Pounds" failed to build any momentum, remaining inactive since that fight.
Future: A bout with IBF number two David Santos, whom he already decisioned once prior to winning the title, is scheduled for August 18.

Forbes fends off the challenge of Brown

76 OKTAY URKAL
Junior Welterweight 30-1 (10)

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Fought only twice in past year—Matthews Zulu (W 8) and Michael Durovic (KO 3)—but enters the top 100 on the strength of a past performance vs. Kostya Tszyu and what Tszyu did this year. In June '01, the German-based Turk battled closely with Tszyu for 12 rounds, showing grit and skill in losing narrowly to a man who has since established his greatness.
Future: Ranked in top 10 by all three sanctioning bodies and hoping for a rematch with Tszyu.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Urkal's chin passes the Tszyu test

77 YODSANAN NANTHACHAI
WBA Super Featherweight Titleholder 36-2-1 (33)

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Hard-punching Thai southpaw defeated Lakva Sim via wide decision to claim WBA belt left vacant when Acelino Freitas received the ridiculous "super champ" designation. No other noteworthy wins on resume, but riding a winning streak that dates back to '94.
Future: Would be the underdog against top-rated contender Joel Casamayor—but, based on Sim result, a live underdog.

78 PHILLIP NDOU
Junior Lightweight 27-1 (26)

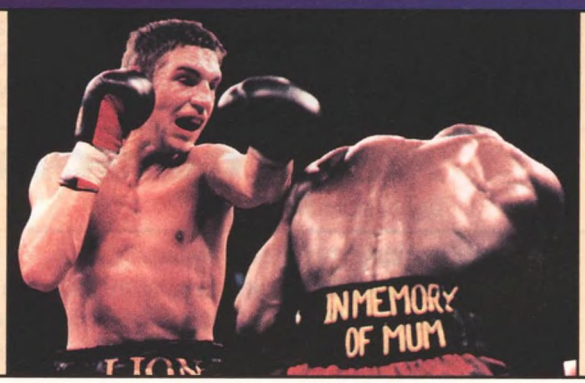
Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Talented 25-year-old South African scored major win over previously unbeaten countryman Cassius Baloyi (W 12) last November, and also defeated solid veterans Carlos Rios (KO 5) and Claudio Martinet (KO 6) in past 12 months. Has fought just twice in America, both times off TV, but has impressed each time.
Future: "The Time Bomb's" time is coming. He just needs U.S. exposure, and HBO has reportedly shown interest.

79 JOSE AGUIRRE
WBC Strawweight Titleholder 27-1-1 (17)

Last Year's Ranking: 77
Status Report: Has shown skills and fair amount of pop, but failed to advance due to inactivity. Topped mandatory challenger Yasuo "Wolf" Tokimitsu (KO 3) in only bout the last 12 months.
Future: List of unheralded and virtually unknown WBC challengers—Khulile Makeba, Ernesto Rubillar, Isaac Bustos, Noel Tunacao—should keep ambidextrous Mexican on top for a while.

80 ARMAND KRANJC
Middleweight 26-1 (19)

Last Year's Ranking: 72
Status Report: Germany-based Swede lost unbeaten record to Harry Simon (L 12), but didn't disgrace himself, fighting hard all the way in a losing cause. Tallied win over useful Paolo Roberto (W 12) prior to first defeat.
Future: Earlier wins over Bert Schenk (KO 6) and Jason Matthews (KO 8) prove ability on European level, but sturdy-chinned, standup boxer probably not good enough to beat top international stars.



Krajnc cranks it up against Jason Matthews

81 BEN TACKIE
Junior Welterweight 24-3 (15)

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Despite near shutout in bid to unseat world champion Kostya Tszyu (L 12), African strongman had already earned respect with victories over Ray Oliveira (W 12), Roberto Garcia (KO 10), Fred Pendleton (KO 1), Golden Johnson (W 10), Terrell Finger (KO 6), and Teddy Reid (KO 5).
Future: Iron chin, dangerous punch, and willingness to fight anybody should keep him in the mix.

Tackie outhustles CompuBox king Oliveira

82 JOHNNY NELSON
Cruiserweight 42-12-1 (28)

Last Year's Ranking: 97
Status Report: Trio of respectable wins since last rating—Marcelo Dominguez (W 12), Alexander Vasiliev (W 12), Ezra Sellers (KO 8)—has boosted enigmatic Englishman slightly, but infuriatingly negative style has won few fans, even in the U.K., where folks appreciate defense more than they do on this side of the Atlantic.
Future: Will continue to earn decent money defending the minor alphabet belt he holds, which isn't too bad of a deal in this moribund division.

83 DAVID TUA
Heavyweight 40-3 (35)

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Last Year's Ranking: 70
Status Report: Bittersweet ratings period for Samoan slugger started with upset loss to Chris Byrd (L 12) and ended with prestige-salvaging win over streaking Fres Oquendo (KO 9). Sandwiched in between these two major bouts was a meaningless ninth-round kayo of rotund Garing Lane.
Future: People will always pay to see a puncher of this quality, which means additional big purses down the road. Next fight slated for August 31, with Michael Moorer a possible opponent.

Tua's power short-circuits Oquendo

84 BRONCO McKART
Junior Middleweight 45-3 (29)

Last Year's Ranking: 95
Status Report: Some guys have no luck, and McKart just might be one of them. The longtime contender stayed semi-busy the past year with a pair of 10-round decisions over Alex Bunema and Brandon Mitchem. His reward? A shot at IBF 154-pound boss Winky Wright, who has already beaten him twice. Some reward!
Future: Another loss to the Winkster.

85 ARTUR GRIGORIAN
Lightweight 34-0 (22)

Last Year's Ranking: 79
Status Report: The Uzbek southpaw is another who fought only once since last year's RING 100, and that was a seventh-round TKO of journeyman Rocky Martinez. Grigorian has shown little ambition beyond the low-rent WBO belt he's held since '96.
Future: May fight IBF counterpart Paul Spadafora on HBO in August, a major step up.

86 ROBERTO LEYVA
IBF Mini Flyweight Titleholder 21-0-1 (18)

Last Year's Ranking: 78
Status Report: Only defense since winning IBF 105-pound crown last year ended in a technical draw against undefeated Miguel Barrera. Mexican lefthander has stayed busy with non-title wins over grizzled vet Manny Melchor (W 10) and inexperienced Juan Francisco Soto (KO 5).
Future: The IBF has the number-one contender spot vacant, but Barrera is number two.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Leyva eludes a left from Daniel Reyes

87 REGGIE JOHNSON
Light Heavyweight 42-7-1 (24)

Last Year's Ranking: 60
Status Report: Former WBA middleweight and IBF light heavyweight titleholder showed signs of age and a long career losing to Antonio Tarver (L 12). The veteran southpaw is still a fine craftsman, but can't keep up with the best of the young studs anymore.
Future: Steppingstone-cum-journeyman role if he decides to fight on.

88 CHANA PORPAOIN
Strawweight 47-2-2 (18)

Last Year's Ranking: 31
Status Report: Second reign as WBA 105-pound titlist ended in first defense, when inexperienced Yutaka Niida outpointed Thai veteran over 12 rounds. Seems to be slipping at age 36, but still scored three straight comeback wins over journeyman types.
Future: Rated number two by the WBA and may get another shot at beltholder Keitaro Hoshino, whom he defeated for the title in April '01.

89 JOHN RUIZ
WBA Heavyweight Titleholder 37-4-1 (27)

Last Year's Ranking: 65
Status Report: After earning great respect for his unexpectedly strong efforts in his first two fights with Evander Holyfield, lost a healthy portion of that respect with his pedestrian effort in the rubber match. "The Quiet Man" was generally considered very lucky to escape with a draw and with his WBA belt intact.
Future: Can prove himself worthy by beating Kirk Johnson on July 27, but the odds are against that result.

PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Ruiz fires a jab in rubber match with Holyfield

90 BRUNO GIRARD
WBA Light Heavyweight Titleholder 41-2-2 (7)

Last Year's Ranking: 75
Status Report: After the WBA made Roy Jones "super champion," got a crack at the vacant but devalued title and battled to a 12-round draw in his native France against Lou Del Valle. When Del Valle withdrew from the rematch with an injury, beat clubfighter Robert Koon (KO 11) to claim the belt. Defended once, beating ordinary Thomas Hansvoll (W 12).
Future: Rematch with Del Valle on again for July in France.

91 THOMAS DAMGAARD
Welterweight 30-0 (24)

Last Year's Ranking: 98
Status Report: Creeping up the rankings by remaining one of the busiest fighters in the game, winning five times since last year. Quality of opposition hasn't been much though; victims included Freddy Rojas (KO 3), Elias Cruz (KO 3), Wilfrido Ruiz (KO 2), Abdelhakim Mehidi (W 8), and Peter Malinga (KO 9).
Future: With a top-four rating in all three alphabet groups, Danish southpaw should get a shot at a belt soon.

92 RAUL BALBI
Lightweight 48-6-1 (33)

PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Argentine claimed WBA 135-pound belt by pounding Julien Lorcy (W 12) last October, but surrendered it in first defense, losing a controversial decision after a stirring brawl with Leonard Dorin in January. May rematch with Dorin ended in a more one-sided decision loss.
Future: No third fight with Dorin, but a shot at IBF boss Paul Spadafora could be interesting.

Balbi slugs it out in first fight with Dorin

93 JEAN-MARC MORMECK
WBA Cruiserweight Titleholder 27-2 (19)

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Though he did almost nothing to become the WBA's mandatory challenger, Frenchman proved himself worthy by pounding a surrender out of aging Virgil Hill (KO 8) for the title. Somewhat crude, but much too young and strong for Hill. Only losses came by decision in fourth and fifth pro fights.
Future: Set for August 10 defense in France, but no opponent had been named as of press time.

94 RANDALL BAILEY
Junior Welterweight 25-2 (25)

Last Year's Ranking: 59
Status Report: Had an up-and-down year, scoring a sensational one-punch knockout over Demetrio Ceballos (KO 3), then losing a back-and-forth battle with Diobelys Hurtado (KO by 7).
Future: Punching power and exciting style will keep him on TV, but it's clear now that Miami banger doesn't have the all-around skill to be a future champion, especially in such a tough division.

Bailey smacks Hurtado with a right

95 LEHLO LEDWABA
Junior Featherweight 33-2-1 (22)

Last Year's Ranking: 80
Status Report: Slick South African technician still living off what he accomplished prior to devastating kayo loss to Manny Pacquiao, which includes five successful defenses of the IBF 122-pound belt he won by outpointing John Michael Johnson in '99.
Future: Should have returned to face another fallen South African hero, Vuyani Bungu, by the time you read this.

96 ANDREW LEWIS
Welterweight 21-1-1 (19) with 1 no-contest

Last Year's Ranking: 36
Status Report: The big question is whether "Six Heads" is as good as he looked winning WBA belt from James Page (KO 7), or as bad as he looked losing the title to Ricardo Mayorga (KO by 5). The answer probably lies somewhere in between, but we won't know until he takes on another world-class fighter who can whack a bit.
Future: Still a minor player in the 147-pound division, but needs to shore up defense to climb back into the title picture.

97 ERIC LUCAS
WBC Super Middleweight Titleholder 35-4-3 (13)

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Former Roy Jones foil grabbed the WBC title in July '01 and has made two defenses, beating an out-of-shape Dingaan Thobela (KO 8) and an over-the-hill Vinny Paz (W 12). Solid pro, but nothing special.
Future: Due to defend in September, but no opponent announced yet, though Omar Sheika has been prominently mentioned.

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Lucas pastes faded Paz

98 JAMEEL McCLINE
Heavyweight 28-2-3 (16)

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Rocketed from unknown *Heavyweight Explosion* fighter to serious contender with wins over Michael Grant (KO 1), Lance Whitaker (W 12), and Shannon Briggs (W 10). Though inexperienced, has the smarts and the size (6'6", 260 pounds) to go places.
Future: Tentative showing against Briggs indicated "Big Time" is not ready for a title shot just yet. Expect more HBO dates until he is.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Fast-rising McCline wallops Whitaker

99 HASIM RAHMAN
Heavyweight 35-4 (29)

Last Year's Ranking: 20
Status Report: It was a horrible year for "The Rock," who went from heavyweight champion and budding star to the lower reaches of the top 10 in a matter of months. Crushed by Lennox Lewis in first title defense (KO by 4), then defeated by underdog Evander Holyfield (Tech. Loss 8) in next bout. Don't forget, though—he did knock Lewis out in April '01. That's why he's still on the list.
Future: A confidence-restoring tuneup wouldn't be a bad idea.

100 OMAR WEIS
Junior Welterweight 35-3-3 (16)

Last Year's Ranking: not rated
Status Report: Hard-luck journeyman finally turned the corner with impressive win over previously undefeated Hector Camacho Jr. (W 10). Before that, seemed to narrowly defeat Ray Oliveira in New Englander's backyard, but had to settle for dubious draw.
Future: Tough but light-hitting Argentine was slated for well-earned payday against comebacking Zab Judah as we went to press.

ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

HOLYFIELD WINS BELIEVERS WITH UPSET OF RAHMAN

Holyfield, performing better than he has in nearly five years, rips into Rahman with a right hand. Thought to be on his last legs, "The Real Deal" put himself back in title contention by defeating fellow former champ Rahman.

By Eric Raskin

Everybody who's ever heard Evander Holyfield talk knows that he is a religious man. Either that or he's a schizophrenic whose alternate personality is some guy named Jesus who takes over whenever Evander needs a little help.

Deeply religious people are always looking for converts, and Holyfield, as it pertains to his boxing career, is no different. After each performance in which he looks like a faded, old fighter, he's ready with a litany of excuses, trying to convince us with his words that he's not ready for retirement. But like the televangelists who preach away on obscure UHF stations on weekend mornings, his words aren't going

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Holyfield catches Rahman with a left hand along the ropes in the seventh round. It was during this furious exchange that "The Rock" got rocked by a clash of heads, leading to the fight's conclusion a round later.

to convince many non-believers.

So in order to gain converts, Holyfield must convince us with his deeds. At age 39, and with only one performance between 1998 and 2001 doing anything other than infuse doubt—the semi-impressive loss in his rematch with Lennox Lewis—nothing less than hard, physical evidence of Holyfield's viability will do.

As he prepared to fight Hasim Rahman on June 1 in a battle of former undisputed heavyweight champions needing a win to stay in the title picture, Holyfield faced more than his share of doubters, including HBO analyst Larry Merchant. After a lengthy sitdown with "The Real Deal" prior to the fight, the best thing Merchant could call Holyfield was "delusional but determined."

Seven-and-a-half rounds later, following Holyfield's best performance in almost five years, Merchant, his face betraying the amazement of one who'd just watched a man walk across water, pronounced him "a remarkable old geezer." A convert had been born. Or perhaps more accurately, born again.

Granted, Holyfield didn't totally dominate and destroy Rahman the way Lewis did last November. But then again, when has Holyfield ever dominated and destroyed anyone? Nearly every fight of his career, whether in his prime or in recent years, whether against fellow

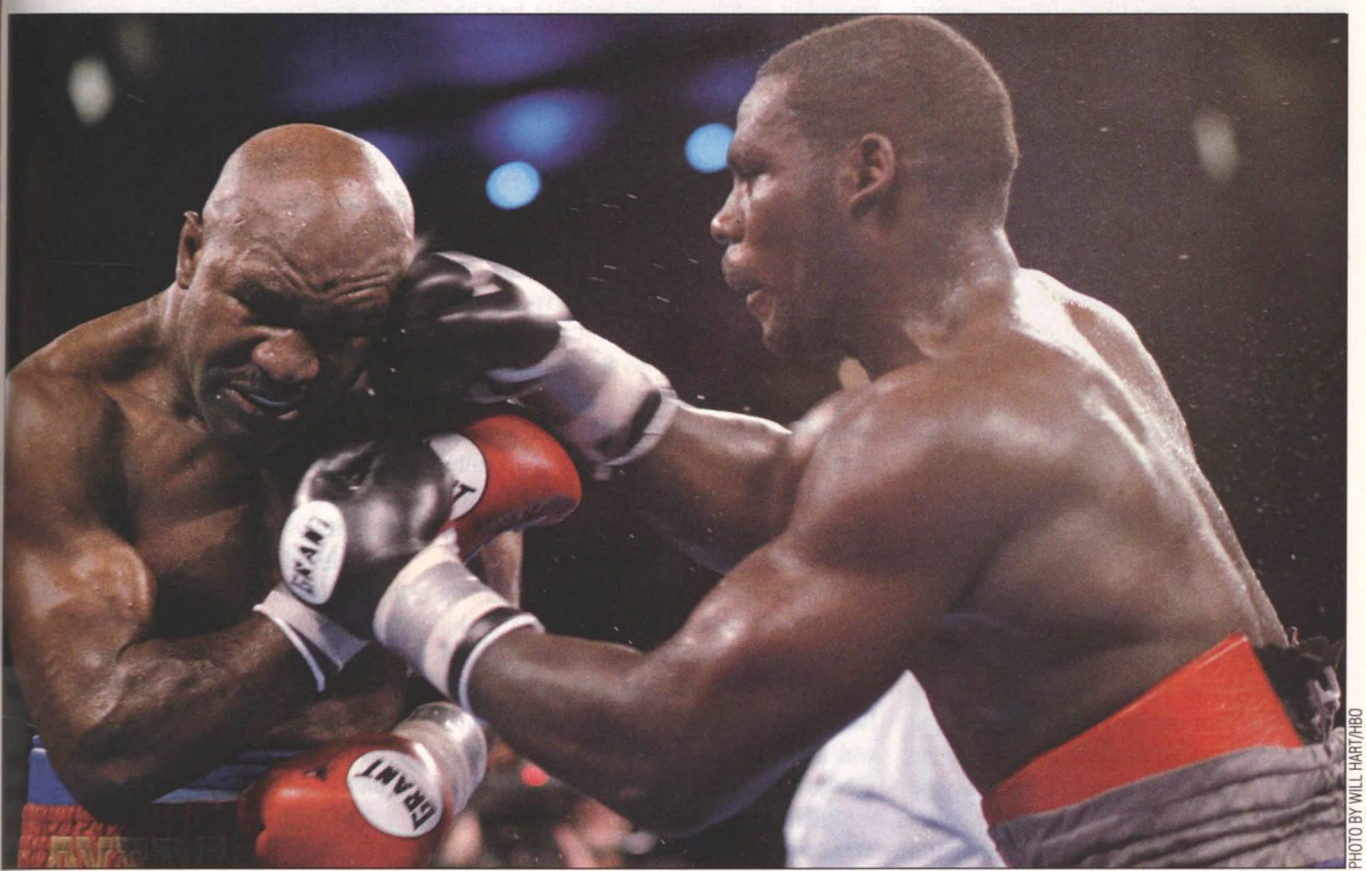


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Rahman, pictured scoring with a clean right hand, had his moments. It's his contention that had he not been injured by Holyfield's head, he would have come on and worn down his opponent. The prevailing opinion, however, was that Rahman was the one on his way to getting kayoed.

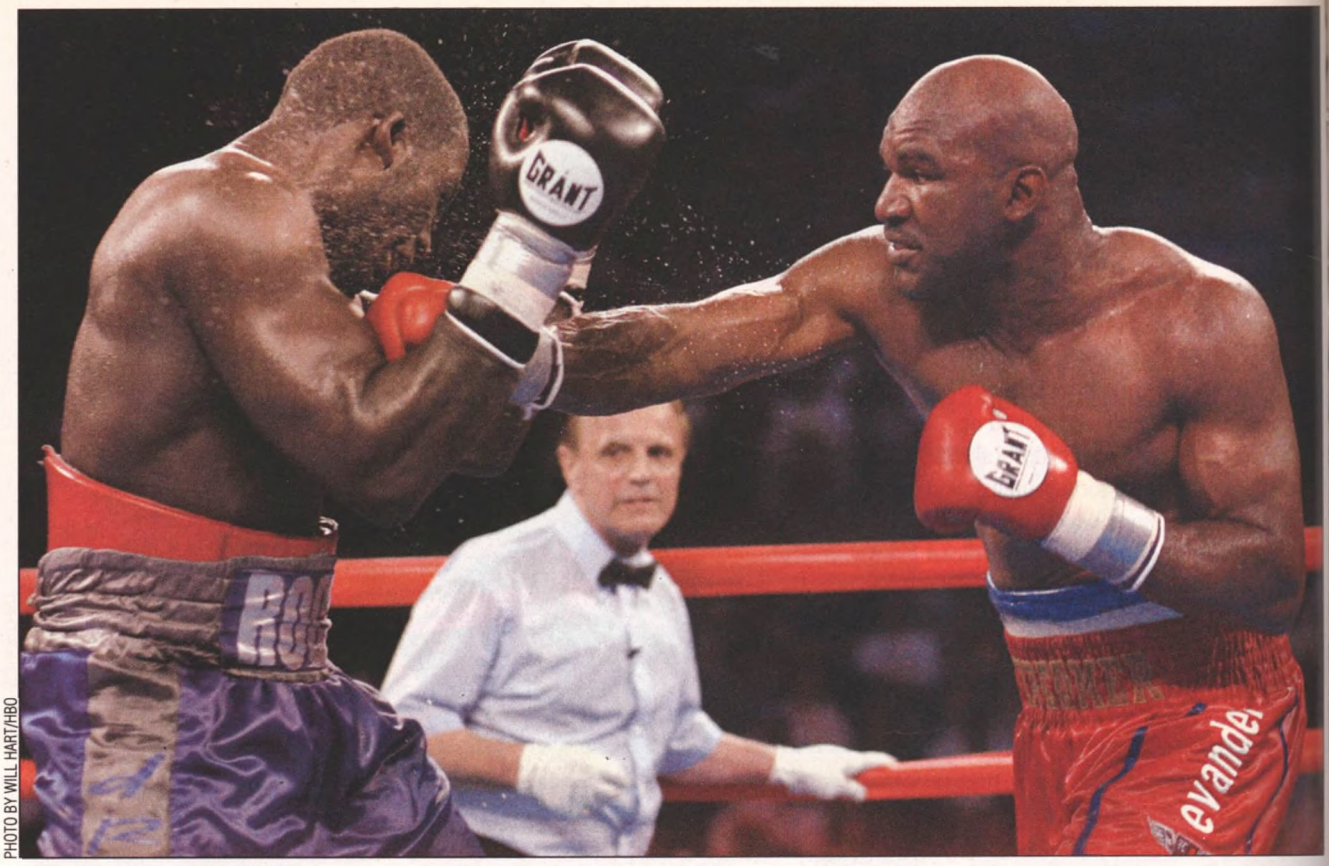


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Holyfield lands a straight right in between Rahman's guard. At age 39, Holyfield looked sharper and quicker than he had in his previous six fights.

greats or against the likes of Bert Cooper, Bobby Czyz, and Vaughn Bean, has been a struggle. So whether you thought Holyfield was comfortably ahead of Rahman or only slightly ahead when the bout was prematurely aborted in the eighth round due to a grotesque swelling on Rahman's temple, whether you thought he was on his way to knocking out "The Rock" or not, you had to be impressed. The fighter in the glossy red trunks was bearing a strong resemblance to the prime Evander Holyfield, and that's something hardly anyone could have anticipated going into the fight.

Now, maybe Holyfield's laundry list of excuses reads more like a series of reasonable explanations. Maybe John Ruiz, against whom Holyfield looked damned-near shot for the bulk of their 36 ungainly rounds, really is so freakin' awkward that you can't look good against him unless you blow him out in 19 seconds. Maybe Holyfield's busted eardrum hurt him in the first fight, and in the second fight, maybe the break in his momentum when he lost a point for a low blow in the 10th round threw him off. Maybe he couldn't perform in his first fight with Lewis because of cramping in his leg and because he "had no Plan B" when Lewis outlasted his third-round kayo prediction. Maybe Bean, like Ruiz, was effective in his utter gracelessness.

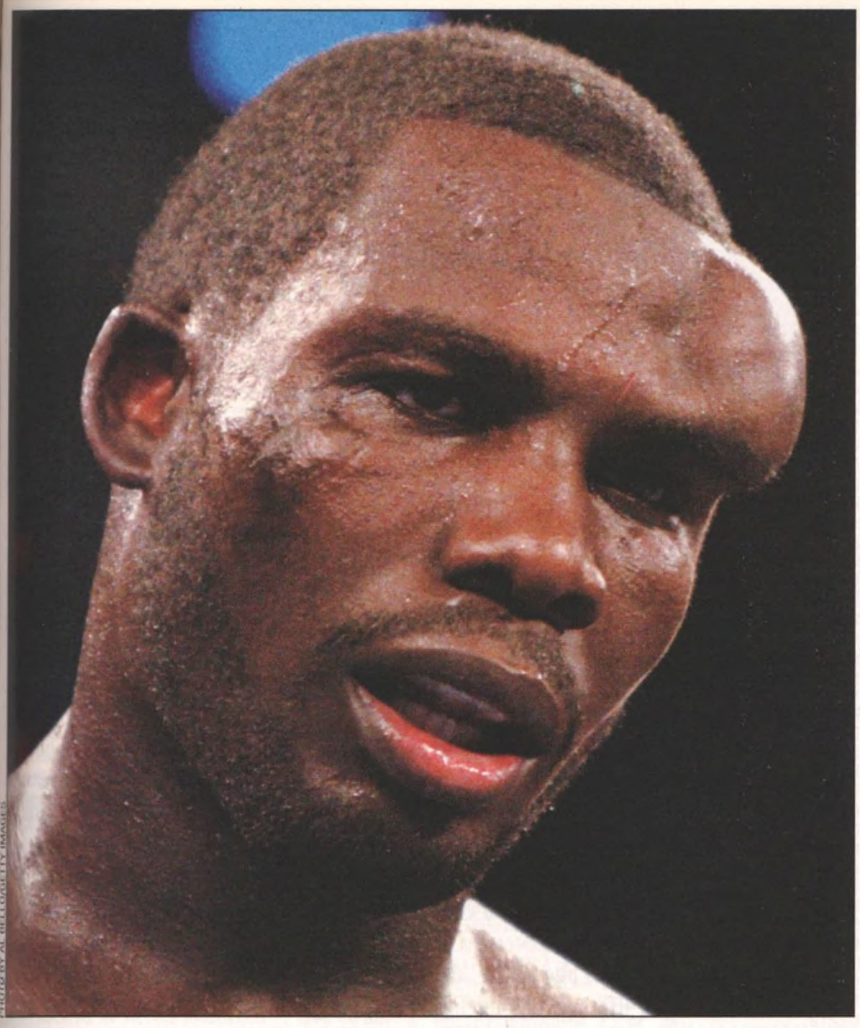
After the Rahman fight, for once, there was no need for excuses, which Holyfield admitted had as much to do with his opponent's conventional style as it did his own mentally and physically sharp performance.

"Rahman swings so hard, it made it easy for me to counter," Holyfield said following his eighth-round technical-decision win. "He couldn't get the distance straight. He put himself in a position where I could hit him with shots. You gotta remember, Rahman started fighting in 1992. In 1992, I lost my first fight. My experience was a factor. Styles make fights, and just like everybody said, for the last three fights, I was off-balance and I didn't look as sharp. With Rahman, I was able to make him commit, and I was able to counter."

Rahman seemed aware from the start of what an outstanding counterpuncher Holyfield still can be, so he was careful in the early going with everything he threw. The Rock's long, stiff, accurate jab was supposed to be the weapon that would neutralize Holyfield's efforts and potentially make this an easy night for the pre-fight favorite. But he couldn't bring himself to commit to it fully, worried probably about what he'd get in return. So for the first three rounds, while Rahman failed to assert himself, the old man seized control and grew increasingly comfortable. Holyfield won the third big, scoring solidly to the body and cracking the 29-year-old Rahman twice with flush rights upstairs.

Whenever Rahman loaded up for his powerful right hand, Holyfield would avoid it by stepping inside. The result was often that the fighters' heads would bang together, and early in the fourth, one such clash left Rahman with a small cut on his forehead. But The Rock answered with his best punch of the fight, a clean lead right that won him the round. He also started to land his jab with a bit more authority by round's end.

The fifth round was close, but in the sixth, Holyfield really started letting his combinations go—that's right, combinations; he *can* still throw them, despite the



"I got this extra head on my head." Rahman tried to fight on with a grotesque hematoma swelling on his left temple, but midway through the eighth round, ringside doctor Howard Taylor wisely advised referee Tony Orlando to stop the bout.

evidence presented in the Ruiz trilogy. The Real Deal seemed to buzz Rahman slightly with a five-punch combo punctuated by a left hook.

Going into the seventh, it was clear that Rahman had to step up the aggression. He did precisely that, but he missed his one window of opportunity, and disaster soon followed. In a scene reminiscent of the end of Rahman's upset win over Lewis in South Africa, The Rock pumped out three authoritative jabs, which didn't land cleanly, yet still sent Holyfield backpedaling across the ring. But Holyfield isn't Lewis, and he didn't let himself get pinned along the ropes with his chin up in the air. Rather, he ducked down, and Rahman's nasty, looping right went sailing by, while Holyfield ended up on the floor courtesy of a body bump.

Moments later, The Real Deal got to Rahman with a right to the body and a left to the head, causing him to back into the ropes. A frenzied exchange ensued, with Holyfield landing all the damaging punches. It wasn't a punch, however, that brought about the greatest damage. It was an inadvertent temple-to-temple collision that caused a freakish knot to emerge instantaneously on the left side of The Rock's forehead, blossoming like a time-lapse rose. At first, it was the size of a golf ball. By the end of the round, it was practically the size of John Daly. By the 1:40 mark of the next round, it was frightening enough that referee Tony Orlando called in the ringside doctor, who told Rahman the hematoma wasn't dangerous in and of itself, but that he wouldn't let the fight go on if it was affecting the boxer's vision. Rahman, probably more skeeved out than anyone by what he would later term an "extra head on my head," told Dr. Howard Taylor that his vision was blurry, and that was that.

(Continued on page 60)

Evander Holyfield

(Continued from page 59)

Two of the judges, John Stewart and Steve Weisfeld, were paying attention and had Holyfield ahead 69-64 through seven completed rounds, the same as THE RING. Judge Melvina Lathan was also paying attention—presumably to the inside of her eyelids. She inexplicably handed in a card that had Rahman ahead 67-66, but luckily, it didn't matter. Holyfield, 38-5-2 (25), looking faster, sharper, and just plain better than he had in any fight since his rematch win over Michael Moorer in '97, got the victory. It was the fifth time in his career that he won as an underdog.

Rahman, however, didn't feel like he'd been defeated.

"'To be continued' should be the result of this fight," said Rahman, 35-4 (29), an ice pack covering his deformed forehead at the postfight press conference. "There were some vicious headbutts from the beginning of the fight. He must have a metal plate in there. I don't remember anyone doing this much damage with a punch. Headbutts won this fight. Evander was breathing hard, and I was going to come on and knock him out in the later rounds."

Despite his bitterness, Rahman did have some complimentary things to say about Holyfield.

"I think, skillfully, Evander's probably the best person I've been in with," he said. "He took away my jab, he took away my right hand. It's hard to hit him twice. He moves his head, and if he gets hit, he's got very good defense. The fight was inconclusive, but there's no doubt I had to pick up the pace."

Perhaps as remarkable as Holyfield's rejuvenated performance in the ring at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City was his rejuvenated performance after the fight. Over the last two or three years, during many interviews, Holyfield has sounded slightly mushmouthed. After the Rahman win, there was no evidence of slurred speech. His words were clear, as were his thoughts. He seemed to have an intelligent answer for every question, defending himself convincingly against accusations that he was tiring or that he was fighting dirty, and even snapping off a couple of clever one-liners.

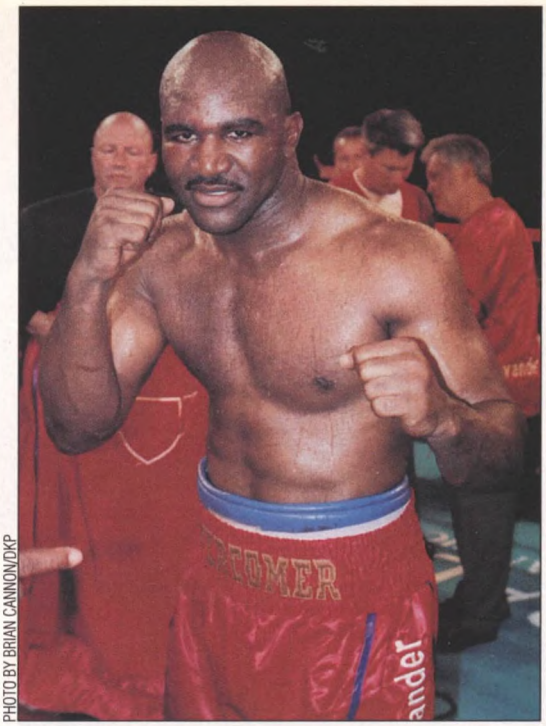


PHOTO BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

Victorious for just the second time in his last six fights, Holyfield is back in the title hunt. But Mike Tyson's defeat to Lennox Lewis has made his dreams of retiring as undisputed heavyweight champion look like a reach, even for the man whose trunks read "overcomer."

Could it be that, at the age of 39, the effects of time and a lifetime of punches have suddenly shifted into reverse, both mentally and physically? Holyfield had better hope so if he's going to have any chance at achieving his goal of retiring as undisputed heavyweight champion. It's no secret that The Real Deal was pulling for Mike Tyson to beat Lewis for the heavyweight championship seven days after the Holyfield-Rahman fight, but we all know how that turned out. Holyfield-Tyson III for the title and countless millions won't be happening.

And unfortunately for the nearly-40-year-old warrior, Holyfield-Lewis III for the title and countless millions is also a longshot. In an online poll conducted by Maxboxing.com following the Lewis-Tyson fight, Holyfield finished dead last, behind Wladimir Klitschko, Chris Byrd, the Kirk Johnson-Ruiz winner, and even Tyson, in response to a question about who the fans want to see Lewis defend against next. In two meetings between Holyfield and Lewis, we learned that their styles don't make for scintillating action, which is why very few people want to see them clash again. We also learned that Holyfield, barring a physical transformation to his 1991 form, doesn't have much of a shot at beating the big man.

"Even though Holyfield did well against Rahman, I think he's fading out," said Bouie Fisher, Rahman's trainer. "His legs won't carry him against another good, experienced fighter like Lewis. Don't get me wrong, Holyfield is a complete fighter. He knows how to do everything. But he had a lot of trouble fighting Ruiz, and Ruiz is not the best fighter out there. If you put pressure on him and force the fight, like we'd planned to do with Rahman, he'll fade. Holyfield would have to get very lucky to beat Lewis."

Holyfield has other options. Granted, if Ruiz beats Johnson, then a fourth fight with his partner-in-plodding is a tough sell. But if Johnson wins, Holyfield might get the first crack at his WBA belt. It's an attractive fight, both men want it, and it's winnable for the Hall of Fame-bound veteran. Though the WBA strap means nothing to most of us, it matters to Holyfield, and it might help him convince Lewis to get in the ring with him one more time. That's one scenario that could lead The Real Deal back to the title. There's also the possibility that Lewis retires or gets bumped off soon. Then, anything can happen, but it would be impossible for Holyfield to corral all three belts overnight. No matter what, it will take a little time to become the undisputed heavyweight king again. Time, however, is one thing about which Holyfield has never been too concerned.

"I'm trying to be the undisputed champ of the world," Holyfield said. "If I keep getting derailed, then it's really going to take a long time, and then people are really going to get mad. But you can't wish me away."

We can only pray that this religious man finds a reason to go away—whether it's by achieving his goal or by being convinced that he can't—before it's too late. To our amazement, though, based on the evidence presented in the Rahman fight, it's not too late yet. ■

BOXING FIGHT POSTERS, PROGRAMS, ART PRINTS, T-SHIRTS, PHOTOS & AUTOGRAPHS

GREAT MOMENTS IN BOXING

8"x10" B&W Action Photos — Just $4.50 ea.

- Robinson/LaMotta Fight
- Louis-Schmeling Battle
- Dempsey beats Willard
- Marciano slugs Lastarza
- Robinson beats Basilio
- Tunney/Dempsey Battle
- Sanchez/Lopez Battle
- Pep vs Saddler Fight
- Marciano's KOs Walcott
- Robinson slugs Gavilan
- Sanchez beats Gomez
- Ali floors Liston
- Hagler nails Hearns
- Leonard defeats Hearns
- Frazier upsets Ali
- Graziano - Zale classic
- Ali-Foreman Battle
- Marciano KO's Louis

8"x10" B&W Photos - Just $4.50 ea.

Ali • Basilio • Delahoya • Chavez • Corbett • Frazier
Dempsey • Duran • LaMotta • Leonard • J. Johnson
Jones Jr. • Louis • Marciano • Foreman • Tyson
Pazienza • Robinson • Pep • Sanchez • Holyfield

8"x10" COLOR PHOTOS - $5.50 ea.

Ali • Delahoya • Hagler vs. Hearns • Chavez •
Leonard vs. Hearns • Gatti • Duran • Foreman
Frazier • Hagler • Hearns • Holmes • Holyfield
Leonard • Mancini • Holyfield vs. Tyson • Bowe
Ali vs. Frazier • Ali vs. Foreman • Ali KO's Liston
Marciano • Tyson • Jones Jr. • Chavez vs. Delahoya

BASEBALL CAPS - $17 EA:

DELAHOYA/CAMACHO • PAZIENZA/DURAN • DELAHOYA/KAMAU
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER • HOLYFIELD/MOORER II • TYSON/BERBICK
PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT • DELAHOYA/RUELAS • TYSON/HOLYFIELD
HOLYFIELD/TYSON II • CHAVEZ/DELAHOYA • OSCAR DELAHOYA
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II • TYSON/RUDDOCK II • JONES/PAZIENZA
CHAVEZ/GAMACHE • MOORER/FOREMAN • DURAN/CAMACHO • F. TRINIDAD
JONES/GONZALEZ • DELAHOYA/CARR • F. MAYWEATHER/RIOS • R. DURAN
DELAHOYA/RIVERA • IRON MIKE TYSON • DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY • DELAHOYA/QUARTEY • DELAHOYA/CHARPENTIER
MAYWHEATHR/HERNANDEZ • HAMED/BARRERA • DELAHOYA/GATTI

8 X 10 AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOS

MUHAMMAD ALI	$300.00
OSCAR DELAHOYA or ROY JONES	$80.00 ea.
JOE FRAZIER or FELIX TRINIDAD	$85.00 ea.
LARRY HOLMES or ALEXIS ARGUELLO	$45.00 ea.
MAX SCHMELING or TOMMY MORRISON	$60.00 ea.
JAKE LAMOTTA or TOMMY HEARNS	$50.00 ea.
JOHN RUIZ or ERNIE SHAVERS	$35.00 ea.
WILLIE PEP or FERNANDO VARGAS	$45.00 ea.
SUGAR RAY LEONARD or ROBERTO DURAN	$50.00 ea.
EMILE GRIFFITH or DANA ROSENBLATT	$25.00 ea.
LENNOX LEWIS or JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ	$85.00 ea.
WILFREDO GOMEZ or CARMEN BASILIO	$35.00 ea.
HECTOR CAMACHO or M. TAYLOR	$35.00 ea.
MARVIN HAGLER or ARCHIE MOORE	$75.00 ea.
SAAD MUHAMMAD or DAVID TUA	$25.00 ea.
KID GAVILAN (BW)	$70.00
EVANDER HOLYFIELD	$100.00
MIKE TYSON or BILLY CONN	$150.00 ea.
FLOYD PATTERSON or BEAU JACK	$50.00 ea.
KEN NORTON or RAY MANCINI	$35.00 ea.
ANGEL MANFREDY	$35.00
VINNY PAZIENZA or ARTURO GATTI	$35.00 ea.
ANDREW GOLOTA	$45.00

FIGHT T-SHIRTS

JONES/GONZALEZ • HOLYFIELD/RUIZ II • HOLYFIELD/MOORER II
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II • DURAN/CAMACHO • OLYMPIC TRIALS '93
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR • CHAVEZ/CAMACHO • O. DELAHOYA
ROY JONES JR. • TYSON/HOLYFIELD '91 • DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD
ROBERTO DURAN • LEONARD/DURAN II • RIDDICK BOWE
FELIX TRINIDAD • HAGLER/LEONARD • HAMED/BARRERA
MAYWHEATHER/HERNANDEZ • HOLYFIELD/HOLMES
DELAHOYA/KAMAU • DEALHOYA/WHITAKER • DELAHOYA/MOSLEY
DELAHOYA/CARR & MAYWHEATHER JR./VARGAS
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY • PAZ/ROSENBLATT • MANCINI/CAMACHO
Vinny Pazienza • LEONARD/DURAN III • LEONARD/NORRIS
LEWIS/TUA • TRINIDAD/VARGAS • PAZIENZA/DURAN II
JULIO C. CHAVEZ • DELAHOYA/CAMACHO • SHANE MOSLEY
MUHAMMAD ALI • ROCKY MARCIANO • MOSLEY/STONE
CAMACHO/EDWARDS • HAGLER/HEARNS • MANCINI/HAUGEN
HECTOR CAMACHO • DELAHOYA/GATTI • MAYWHEATHER/RIOS
CHAVEZ/GAMACHE • ALI/NORTON • LEONARD/HEARNS

Just $18.00 each **(choose XL or L)**

FIGHT POSTERS

ALI/BUGNER (Linen Backed)	$1,000.00
ALI/FRAZIER I (LeRoy Neiman Poster)	$600.00
ALI/FRAZIER I (Closed Circuit) POSTER	$300.00
ALI/FRAZIER III — ON SITE	$3,000.00
ALI/FRAZIER III (Closed Circuit) NEIMAN	$95.00
ALI/HOLMES (REPRINT) or HOLMES/MERCER	$15.00 ea.
ALI/HOLMES or CHAVEZ/WHITAKER	$100.00 ea.
ALI/LISTON 35TH ANNIVERSARY	$18.00
ALI/NORTON III	$400.00
FOREMAN/ALI (Closed Circuit) Poster	$500.00
BARRERA/JONES or BARRERA/DIAZ	$20.00 ea.
BOWE/GOLOTA or BOWE/GOLOTA II	$45.00 ea.
CAMACHO/ROSARIO or CHAVEZ/CAMACHO	$75.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/DELAHOYA or CHAVEZ/ALI	$5.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/RANDALL, TRINIDAD/CAMACHO	$45.00
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR or CHAVEZ/TAYLOR II	$35.00 ea.
JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ or DELAHOYA/QUARTEY	$20.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CAMACHO or DELAHOYA/RIVERA	$15.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CAMPANELLA, Jones/Tate	$45.00
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II or DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD	$25.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CARR, Maywheather/Vargas	$10.00
DELAHOYA/HERNANDEZ	$35.00
DELAHOYA/LEIJA	$50.00
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY or DELAHOYA/GATTI	$30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/RUELAS or MANCINI/CAMACHO	$35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER or DELAHOYA/GONZALEZ	$20.00 ea.
JACK DEMPSEY 16"X20" B&W POSTER	$45.00
FENECH/NELSON II or CZYZ/LALONDE	$45.00 ea.
FOREMAN/COONEY or DURAN/BENITEZ	$25.00 ea.
FOREMAN/GRIMSLEY or FOREMAN/MORRISON	$40.00 ea.
FOREMAN/SAVARESE or HERNANDEZ/GERENA	$5.00 ea.
GATTI/ROBINSON, VARGAS/CAMPAS	$50.00
HAGLER/DURAN or DURAN/CAMACHO	$35.00 ea.
HAGLER/HEARNS or HOLMES/WITHERSPOON	$100.00 ea.
HAGLER/LEONARD or HAGLER/MUGABI	$60.00 ea.
HAMED/CABRERRA or HAMED/BARRERA	$45.00 ea.
HAMED/KELLY or HAMED/INGLE	$60.00 ea.
HAMED/SOTO or NELSON/HERNANDEZ	$10.00 ea.
HEARNS/BARKLEY II or LAZARRAGA/MEDINA	$10.00 ea.
HEARNS/HILL or HEARNS/ROLDAN	$20.00 ea.
HOLMES/COONEY or HOLMES/SMITH	$35.00 ea.
HOLMES/SHAVERS or HOLMES/M. SPINKS	$30.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE or TAPIA/AYALA	$20.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/HICKS or HOLYFIELD/BOWE III	$50.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/CZYZ or HOLYFIELD/FOREMAN	$35.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/DOUGLAS or HOLYFIELD/MERCER	$45.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/HOLMES or MCCULLOUGH/ZARAGOSA	$15.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/MOORER I or II	$15.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/STEWART or WHITAKER/MCGIRT	$50.00 ea.
JONES/CASTRO or JONES/CHIRINO	$200.00 ea.
JONES/GRIFFIN II or JONES/JOHNSON or JONES/GONZALEZ	$30.00 ea.
JONES/HARDING or JONES/HARMON	$20.00 ea.
TYSON/BERBICK or JONES/TONEY	$150.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN II or WHITAKER/PAEZ	$40.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN III or LEONARD/LALONDE	$45.00 ea.
LEONARD/HEARNS I or II	$40.00 ea.
LEWIS/GOLOTA or LEWIS/TUCKER	$5.00 ea.
LEWIS/MCCALL or LEWIS/BRIGGS	$35.00 ea.
LEWIS/GRANT or LEWIS/BOTHA	$30.00 ea.
LEWIS/RAHMAN or MORRISON/LEWIS	$25.00 ea.
MARCIANO/WALCOTT (Reprint) or LEWIS/TUA	$25.00 ea.
MAYWHEATHER/CORRALES or MANCINI/CHACON	$20.00 ea.
MAYWHEATHER/C. HERNANDEZ	$15.00
MORALES/MCCULLOUGH or MORALES/RAMIREZ	$5.00 ea
MORRISON/HIDE or SAVARESE/DOUGLAS	$10.00 ea.
MORRISON/MERCER or MORRISON/RUDDOCK	$35.00 ea.
MOSLEY/TAYLOR, MOSLEY/DIAZ or MOSLEY/STONE	$20.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/CAMACHO or PAZIENZA/DURAN	$50.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/DURAN II or PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT	$20.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/JONES or PAZIENZA/BROWN	$45.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/WHITAKER or TRINIDAD/PETTWAY	$20.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/THIAM or TRINIDAD/VARGAS	$25.00 ea.
TRIPLE HITTER - Duran/Sims, Hearns, McGuigan	$30.00
TYSON/BRUNO II or TYSON/MCNEELEY	$15.00 ea.
TYSON/DOUGLAS	$200.00
TYSON/HOLMES or TYSON/BIGGS	$35.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD '91 BUD (Cancelled)	$25.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD '96	$60.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD II - 5/3/97 (Cancelled)	$5.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD II	$10.00
TYSON/MATHIS or TYSON/GOLOTA	$35.00 ea.
TYSON/RUDDOCK II or TYSON/SAVARESE	$75.00 ea.
TYSON/STEWART or TYSON/FRANCIS	$50.00 ea.
TYSON/THOMAS or TYSON/SMITH	$85.00 ea.
TYSON/TUBBS or TYSON/HOLYFIELD 91 PROMO (Can.)	$135.00 ea.
TYSON/TUCKER or TYSON/TILLMAN	$45.00 ea.
MUHAMMAD ALI or IRON MIKE TYSON POSTER	$15.00 ea.
SUGAR RAY LEONARD S.I. or WHITAKER/JACOBS	$15.00 ea.
HBO -Jones, Delhoya, Lewis, Hamed	$3.00
HBO POSTER featuring 11 color photos of fights	$5.00

FIGHT PROGRAMS

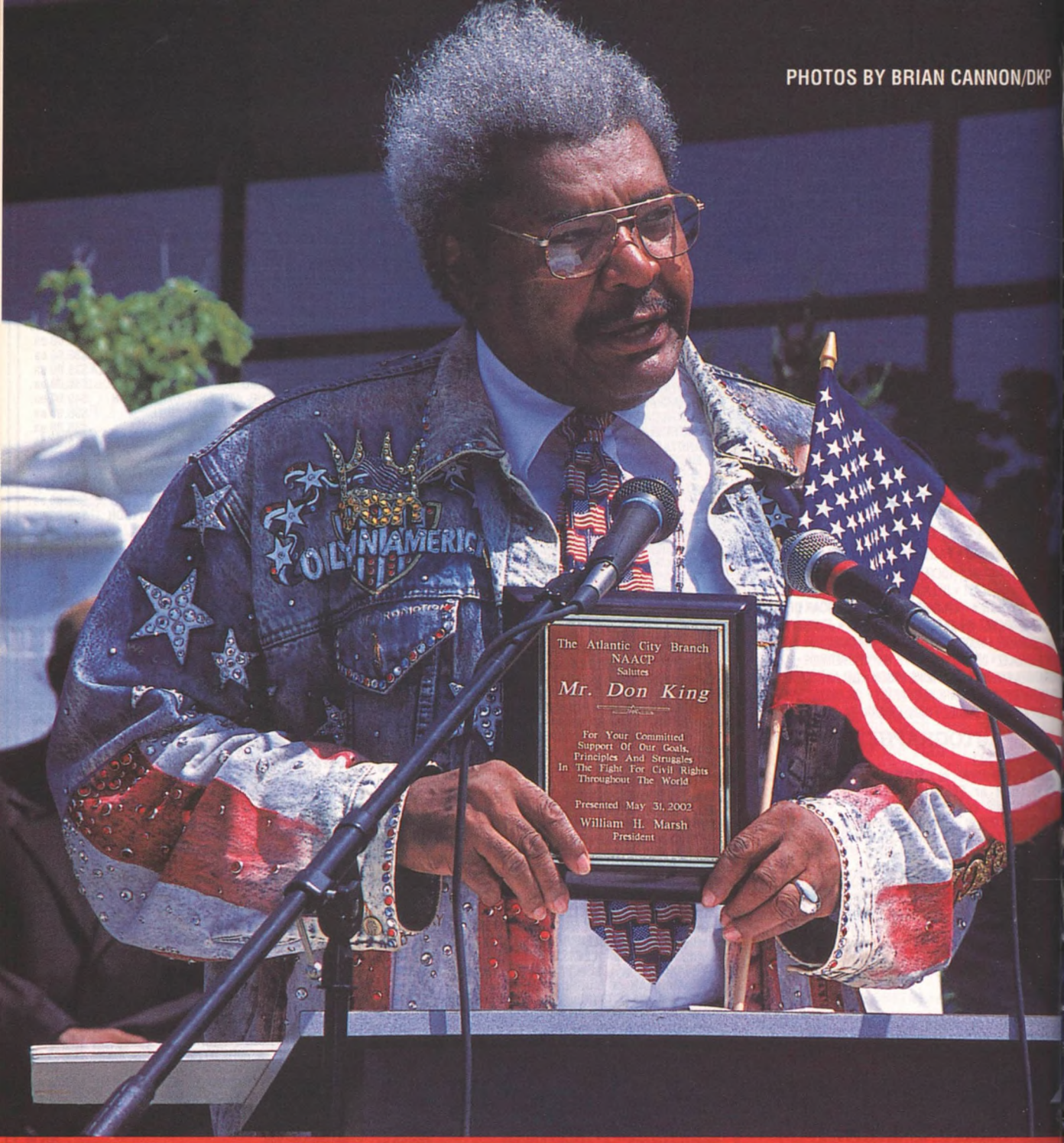
1976 OLYMPIC PRG. (Ray Leonard)	$250.00
1984 OLYMPIC BOX-OFFS (Tyson, Holyfield, etc.)	$500.00
ALI/BUGNER or ALI/MATHIS	$400.00 ea.
ALI/BUGNER (CC) or ALI/LISTON REFEREE PROG	$100.00 ea.
ALI/COOPER II or ALI/LONDON	$350.00 ea.
ALI/FOREMAN (CC) or ALI/FRAZIER III (CC)	$100.00 ea.
ALI/FOREMAN (CC, Neiman) or ROBINSON/TURPIN	$300.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER (CC) or HOLYFIELD/QAWI	$150.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER II or ALI/QUARRY II	$500.00 ea.
ALI/HOLMES or ALI/NORTON III	$125.00 ea.
ALI/NORTON (warehouse find) Now just	$75.00
ALI/NORTON II or ALI/YOUNG	$600.00 ea.
ALI/QUARRY or ALI/LONDON	$300.00 ea.
ALI/ROBINSON	$450.00
Muhammad Ali Dinner Program	$35.00
BENN/MCCLELLAN or BENITEZ/HAMSHO	$50.00 ea.
BOWE/GOLOTA I or II	$35.00 ea.
CAMACHO/HAUGEN II or CAMACHO/PAZIENZA	$35.00 ea.
CAMACHO/ROSARIO or LEWIS/TUA	$50.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/CAMACHO or MERCER/MORRISON	$40.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/GAMACHE or CHAVEZ/MITCHELL	$35.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR or CHAVEZ/RANDALL	$35.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/WHITAKER (Cover Scuffed) or CHAVEZ/KAMAU	$15.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II or DELAHOYA/CARR	$30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/GONZALEZ or DELAHOYA/WHITAKER	$45.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/KAMAU or DELAHOYA/RIVERA	$25.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/GATTI or VARGAS/QUARTEY	$35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY or DELAHOYA/TYSON	$45.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/RUELAS or DELAHOYA/COLEY	$35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD or DELAHOYA/MOSLEY	$35.00 ea.
DURAN/BARKLEY or HOLMES/COONEY	$75.00 ea.
DURAN/MANAFEE or NORRIS/LEONARD	$60.00 ea.
FOREMAN/SAVARESE or GRANT/SAVARESE	$25.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN II or McGUIGAN/PEDROZA	$50.00 ea.
HAGLER/HEARNS or HAGLER/ROLDAN	$60.00 ea.
HAGLER/MUGABI or HAGLER/OBEL	$45.00 ea.
HAMED/KELLY or HAMED/VAZQUEZ	$40.00 ea.
HAMED/BARRERA or CAMACHO/DURAN	$35.00 ea.
HEARNS/BARKLEY I or II	$35.00 ea.
HEARNS/BENITEZ or MANCINI/CAMACHO	$75.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN or HEARNS/CUEVAS	$125.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE I, II or III	$75.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/HOLMES or HOLYFIELD/MOORER	$45.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/RUIZ II or LEWIS/MORRISON	$35.00 ea.
JONES/SOSA or JONES/GRIFFIN	$25.00 ea.
LEONARD/CAMACHO or HOLMES/MERCER	$25.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN III or HOLYFIELD/FOREMAN	$75.00 ea.
LEONARD/FINCH or LEONARD/LALONDE	$60.00 ea.
LEONARD/HEARNS I or II	$65.00 ea.
LEWIS/BRUNO or HOLYFIELD/BEAN	$45.00 ea.
LEWIS/TUCKER or LEWIS/GOLOTA	$30.00 ea.
LOUIS/CONN II, LOUIS/NOVA or LOUIS/MAURIELO	$500.00 ea.
MANCINI/CHACON or MANCINI/ESPANA	$25.00 ea.
MANCINI/KIM or MANCINI/VALDEZ	$90.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/BURGESE, JONES JR./JOHNSON	$60.00
PAZIENZA/DURAN I or II	$25.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/JONES or PAZIENZA/GRAHAM	$40.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT I or II	$20.00 ea.
SANCHEZ/LOPEZ	$375.00
TRINIDAD/WHITAKER or TRINIDAD/VARGAS	$35.00 ea.
TSZYU/CHAVEZ or TYSON/NORRIS	$35.00 ea.
TYSON/BOTHA or TYSON/FRANCIS	$50.00 ea.
TYSON/BRUNO or TYSON/HOLMES	$100.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD I or II	$20.00 ea.
TYSON/MCNEELEY or TRIPLE HITTER- Duran/Sims, Hearns	$25.00 ea.
TYSON/RUDDOCK I or II	$95.00 ea.
TYSON/SAVARESE, TYSON/SMITH or TYSON/MATHIS	$45.00 ea.
TYSON/STEWART or TYSON/TILLMAN	$75.00 ea.
TYSON/SPINKS or TYSON/WILLIAMS	$85.00 ea.
TYSON/TUBBS or TYSON/DOUGLAS	$125.00 ea.
WHITAKER/NELSON	$25.00

AUTOGRAPHED BOXING GLOVES

(Single Gloves, Guaranteed Authentic)

Roberto Duran or Johnny Tapia	$110.00
Joe Frazier or Jake LaMotta	$175.00 ea.
Muhammad Ali	$375.00
Marvin Hagler, Kid Gavilan or Willie Pep	$150.00 ea.
Sugar Ray Leonard or Hector Camacho	$125.00 ea.
Ray Mancini or Arturo Gatti	$100.00 ea.
Shane Mosley or Naseem Hamed	$150.00 ea.
Mike Tyson	$225.00
Vinny Pazienza or Bobby Czyz	$100.00 ea.
Larry Holmes, Tommy Morrison or Alexis Arguello	$125.00 ea.
Oscar de la Hoya or Roy Jones	$195.00 ea.
Carmen Basilio or Vito Antuofermo	$95.00 ea.
Archie Moore or Lennox Lewis	$200.00 ea.
LEONARD & DURAN (By Both)	$200.00
Tommy Hearns	$175.00

Ordering Instructions: Please include $7 post. & Hdlg. per package (Foreign Countries $15 per package ground or $23 air)
Send To: BOB PACE, Dept. Ring, P.O. Box 698, Lynnfield, MA 01940 or call with AMEX, Disc., VISA or MC — (781) 284-4954



PHOTOS BY BRIAN CANNON/DKP

By Joe Santoliquito

The famous coiffure is easily spotted from a distance. Construction workers building a house slide their hammers back into their leather tool belts, take a few moments to wipe their brows, and begin hollering Don King's name from the rooftops as King, accompanied by a large entourage, walks past.

King can have that kind of effect on people. The Hall of Fame promoter lives in a whirlwind of outstretched hands, waving arms, incessant cell phone calls, on-the-go business deals, *and* people chanting his name from rooftops.

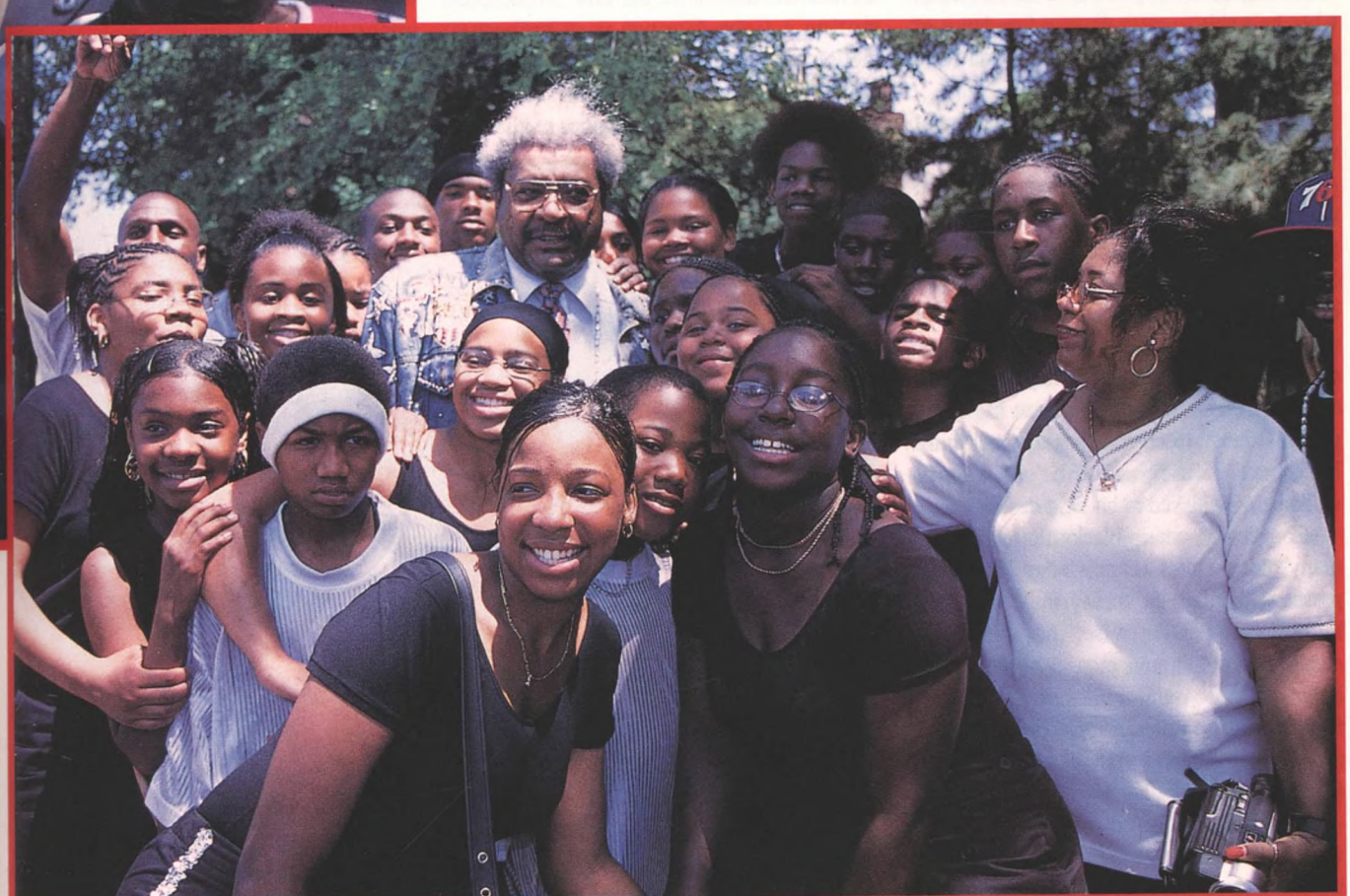
But the Don King most of the public sees is slightly skewed from the behind-closed-doors Don King. That version is held in reserve for when the *real* talks begin, the ones with power brokers, concerning mega-dollar deals involving some of the biggest names in the boxing and entertainment industry.

Spending a day with the 71-year-old King, as THE RING did the day before the Evander Holyfield-Hasim Rahman fight in Atlantic City, is exhaustive, like running an endless marathon over sand dunes, without any water breaks.

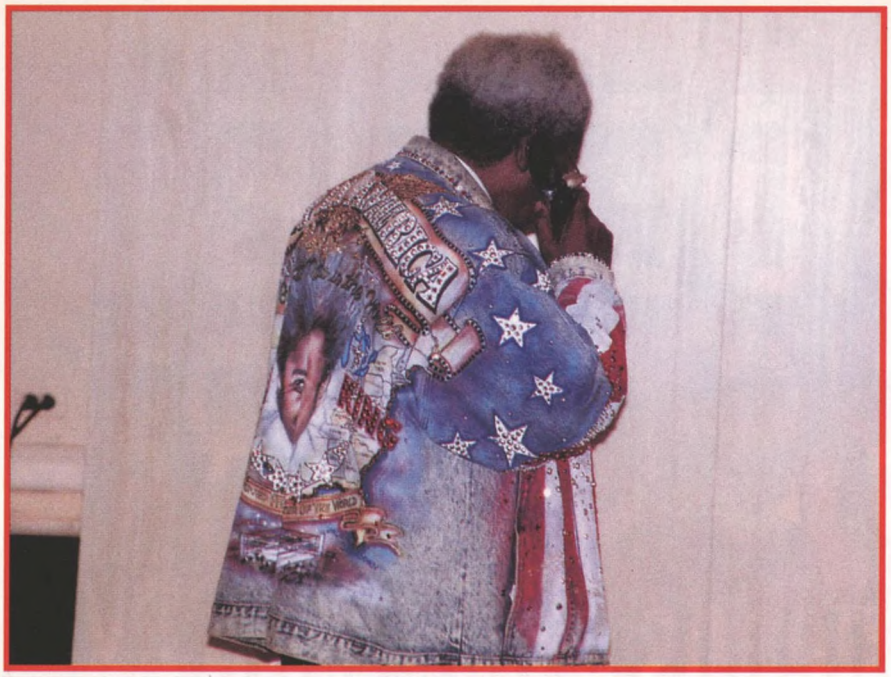
The first thing you notice about King is that you never really walk alone with King, you walk among him and his team. He trav-

INSIDE THE KING'S COURT

THE RING Spends A Day With DK



One thing that becomes obvious around King is that the African-American community clamors to be by his side in public. This is something King relishes.



The public King is the complete opposite of the confidential King, who, on important calls, will isolate himself from his own people and find a private area where he can discuss matters in solitude.

els in packs, whether it's his own personal entourage or hangers-on who would like to be part of King's world. When promoting a fight, King is only alone when he goes to the bathroom, takes a shower, or at the rare times when he's able to catch three or four hours of sleep. Other than that, it's always Don King and his Merry Men.

During the hectic day THE RING spent with King, it soon became obvious that the African-American community is enamored with him. They seek King out everywhere he goes, whether it's in a restaurant, where the chef and his chief assistant came out to meet him after cooking King's breakfast, or with older folks at a senior citizen's center, or children at a middle school. They have to get a picture taken with him, or get his autograph. Others are content just to touch him. King never refuses, unless he's in a hurry while being whisked to his next destination.

Conversely, where blacks flock to King, many older whites acknowledge him as he passes with either an uneasy smile or with a knowing nod. Otherwise, they pay little attention to the famous man. It is interesting, however, that young whites seek King out for pictures and autographs. It seems that they have a different view of him than their father's and grandfather's generations.

King has a unique relationship with whites. Though he has been accused of playing the race card and of being prejudiced in the past, many of King's top people are white, such as Bobby Goodman, who has been with King, on and off, for decades. Then there is also Alan Hopper, King's public relations director at the time. While promoting a fight, Hopper is in perpetual motion, just like his boss. Hopper is highly organized, mapping out itineraries, scheduling phone interviews with various media outlets. He is constantly arranging and rearranging King's schedule, in mid-schedule.

During a day spent with King, the numerous facets of his personality are on display. King is highly intelligent, tireless, calculating, charismatic, somewhat bitter about a past that he's always reminded of, guarded, controlling, caring, manipulative, sensitive, patient, very organized, humorous, diverse, bombastic, profane, polite, subdued in quiet times, autocratic, versed in a great number of areas, powerfully loyal to those closest to him—and never boring.

Put aside the circus barker persona he projects to the public, a cartoon caricature that King himself cultivated through the years, and you see that in private he's really not a conversation starter, but a listener. He'll hear what someone has to say before he counters with a suggestion or opinion of his own.

The public King suggests buffoon. The confidential King suggests anything but. He is a very hands-on businessman. No one talks for King but King. He easily fields 200 calls a day, coming from people in various walks of life. King always looks at the phone number of incoming cell calls, and then decides whether or not he wants to answer it. On important calls, King will isolate himself from his own people and find a private area where he can discuss the matter in solitude.

The day THE RING tagged along with

King's day started at 6 a.m. at the Trump Taj Mahal, where radio personality Howard Stern was staging the "Junkie vs. Flunky" boxing match. In comparison to the likes of Stern regulars such as "Bigfoot," the outrageous King seemed downright conventional.

King, his workday began at 6 a.m. at the Trump Taj Mahal, where radio personality Howard Stern was staging a boxing match pitting 262-pound Crazy Cabbie against 175-pound Stuttering John, one of Stern's sidekicks. The so-called fight had been christened "Junkie vs. Flunky," and King found himself in the netherworld of Stern's wacko menagerie.

Seated there in his red-white-and-blue sequined denim jacket and waving a small American flag, King's eyes bulged, as he tried to figure out exactly who the hell the crazy cast was that surrounded him at the Taj Mahal that morning. One man was walking around him in a leather G-string, his backside exposed, while a large woman, who looked like she could bench press 500 pounds, flexed massive biceps at any passing camera, somewhat intimidating the fighters who were at ringside watching the spectacle. King was even booed on occasion, but he shrugged it off, impervious to any negative attention.

By 10 a.m., King had spoken to almost every person in the Taj holding out a microphone, as Hopper directed him from one interviewer to the next. King genuinely lives for the attention, revving up and going into "Don King Mode," before being escorted back to Bally's, where King had set up headquarters for the Holyfield-Rahman promotion.

King is adept at pacing himself. During a respite between the Flunky-Junkie show and the rest of his day, King was tranquil. He ate breakfast with his people, took calls from Felix Trinidad's attorney, and received a visit from one of John Ruiz' representatives, who asked about getting tickets for a David Copperfield Show that weekend.

During down time, King can be very tranquil, as he was here when he finally got a respite between the Stern gig and the rest of his day. But even during breakfast, King was constantly receiving calls.

"That shouldn't be a problem," King replied, shaking his head. "I'll take care of that. Ruiz shouldn't have to pay."

In between gulps of food, King was on the phone, reaching for anything to write on, jotting down notes. But King was getting so many calls that at one juncture, he finally decided it was enough. He pitched the phone across the table to one of his assistants, Isadore, while he finished his grits and eggs. Isadore played secretary, screening King's calls: "Don can't talk to you right now; his mouth is full. He'll get back to you later."

King also conferred briefly with trainer Aaron Snowell, who updated King on one of his fighters. They spoke in hushed tones, as Snowell also informed King that the property next to his Ohio training center was up for auction, news that perked King up, since he's been thinking about expanding the complex.

King does take bathroom breaks, and between 11 a.m. and noon, he retreated back to his hotel suite for a short nap.

"Right after this fight, we'll go out to the West Coast, or somewhere," said Brian Cannon, King's photographer. "It's nonstop with Don. You know, I don't think in the years I've worked with Don that I've ever seen him sleep."

Shortly after noon, five female police officers from Newark, New Jersey, arrived to serve as King's official security ("Don King's Angels") for the rest of the day's schedule. A line of limos with police escort took King from a senior citizen's home, then to Martin Luther King Middle School in downtown Atlantic City, before the day ended at Atlantic City's City Hall, where King was presented with a key to the city and

King, who was taken from venue to venue by limo, was never without an American flag in his hand. King's denim jacket also illustrates the patriotic image he likes to project.

King's long day concluded with a ceremony conducted by Atlantic City mayor Lorenzo T. Langford, who presented the Hall of Fame promoter with a key to the city. King, surprisingly, was modest in his acceptance speech.

the promise that one day there will be a Don King Boulevard in the East Coast casino town.

King seems to go out of his way for two different types of people: politicians and policemen. That's who surrounded him for most of the tour. In the limo, King spoke to one of the female officers about what seems to be a perpetual thorn from his past—Mike Tyson.

It's a topic that brings out the ire in King, who spoke about the acrimonious split the two underwent, and the pending civil suits they have levied against each other. This was not rehearsed. There was no TV camera around, no outstretched microphones, or notepads taking down his every word. He actually seemed to be speaking from his heart.

"I tried to help that man," King told the police officer, "and people blame me for ruining him. Tyson ruined himself. I tried to do everything I could to help him, from hiring hypnotists to psychiatrists. He never takes responsibility for his actions. [The lewd comments he made] to that female CNN reporter was reprehensible. That never happened when I promoted him. That type of behavior reflects on all of us. Tyson doesn't see that. He's crazy; we all know Tyson's a little nuts. Some people in this country still view the black man in a certain way, and Tyson epitomizes that. That boy can be a poster boy for the KKK. They think of blacks as lazy, as rapists, and liars. Tyson doesn't help change that opinion.

"What really angered me was when Tyson said he felt no responsibility to the community. He said he had no responsibility and that he ain't with no black struggle, he ain't with no black cause. Can you believe he'd say that?"

This was said as King was on his way to making stops at a senior citizen's home, then the local junior high, where balloons with King's smiling face adorned the halls and children serenaded him with rap lyrics and songs. King rewarded them with a special gift of his own, whipping out $10,000 in cash to present to the school's administrators.

"You have to care about the community, you have to care about where you come from," said King as he got back into the limo and headed toward city hall. "Your roots make you strong. Some people tend to forget that. I never did."

By 3:30 p.m., King was at city hall, being hailed as the greatest promoter of all-time by Atlantic City mayor Lorenzo T. Langford, who gave him the key to the city and declared that it was "Don King Day." King wasn't always welcome in Atlantic City. He was banned from its casinos for three years after being indicted on wire fraud charges in 1994. He was later acquitted. The mayor's speech, of course, made no mention of that. It was filled with such hyperbole that it stopped just short of naming King the creator of all living things. King, ironically, was brief in thanking the city administrators for the special honor. Afterward, Hopper found a room to hold an impromptu press conference, so that King could speak briefly with a handful of gathered media.

King is at his best in these settings. He sat at the head of a table in a second-floor room of the A.C. courthouse, with the reporters in rapt attention, absorbing his every word. He

was a commanding presence, holding court in the courthouse, talking about everything from Tyson's sanity to the poor way Tyson has been handled since he and Tyson parted.

The oddest moment of the afternoon came here. During King's 40-minute session with the media, a one-eyed bald man in his mid-30s, wearing a Los Angeles Lakers basketball jersey, was wandering the second-floor hall.

When the man saw someone enter the room where King was talking to the press, he followed, entering a room adjacent to where King was speaking. When asked who he was and what he wanted, the man replied, "Don King's my son; I'm Don King's father." King's security people were bewildered, and quickly reacted, gently escorting him downstairs and outside of the courthouse without incident.

King knew nothing about it.

As the media session broke up around 5 p.m., Hopper popped out of another room close by, frantically waving King to the phone—yet another interview, this time for a New York City radio station. King repeated almost verbatim what he told the print media just minutes earlier, showing no signs of fatigue whatsoever.

By 5:30 p.m., King was headed back to Bally's for even more phone interviews with various radio stations. During the ride back to the hotel-casino, King revealed that the only-in-America side of him isn't just shtick. He believes what he says.

"I've been incarcerated in this country and was given another chance at life," King told the small group in the limo. "If I were in another country, I wouldn't be where I am today. That's why I believe in the American justice system. I'm the living embodiment of it."

The limo pulled up in front of Bally's. One of King's people suggested dinner, but King declined, asking to go up to the sixth-floor headquarters where he'd go on until about 7 p.m., nonstop, giving one interview after the next, turning on the King charm like the flick of a switch.

Asked by one reporter what keeps him going, and if he ever sees an end in sight, King let out that bellowing laugh of his, and said, "Maybe when I'm falling off my death bed, I'll give this up. I consider myself really blessed by God. I've been through a lot of things in my life, but this keeps me young, it keeps me going. I can go on forever." ■

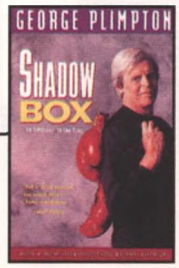
IT'S TIME TO CLEAN HOUSE!

WE'RE GETTING RID OF EVERYTHING... AND WE MEAN EVERYTHING!

ALL PRICED TO MOVE!

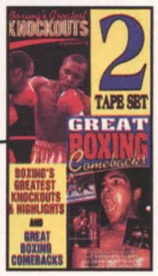
BOXING BOOKS

☐ Young Rocky (King/Caso)	$7.50
☐ The All Time Greats Of Boxing (Arnold)	$14.95
☐ Boxing Clever (Oates)	$7.50
☐ Dan Stuart's Fistic Carnival (Miletech)	$24.50
☐ Shadow Box (Plimpton)	$11.95
☐ Punchlines (Berger)	$21.95
☐ Best Of The Ring	$19.95



BOXING VIDEOS

☐ Grudge Fights	$19.95
☐ Great Comebacks (2-tape set)	$12.95

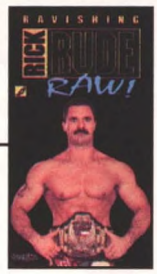


HOCKEY VIDEOS

☐ Great Moments In Hockey	$14.95
☐ Dynamite On Ice	$12.95
☐ Pro Hockey Funnies	$12.95
☐ Devastating Hits Of Hockey	$14.95

WRESTLING VIDEOS

☐ Rick Rude: Raw!	$12.95
☐ Sting: Deadly Venom	$12.95
☐ Best Of Wrestling Gold (Vol. 3)	$19.95
☐ Best Of Wrestling Gold (Vol. 4)	$19.95
☐ Wrestling Funnies	$9.95
☐ Madusa's Workout	$9.95



BASKETBALL VIDEO

☐ Michael Jordan: Air Time (2-tape set w/ book)	$19.95

BASEBALL POSTERS

☐ Dave Justice (Braves)	$5.95
☐ Roger Clemens (Red Sox)	$5.95
☐ Mike Piazza (Dodgers)	$5.95
☐ Ken Griffey (Mariners)	$5.95

BASKETBALL POSTERS

☐ Scottie Pippen (Bulls)	$5.95
☐ Phoenix Suns ("Fire")	$5.95

HOCKEY POSTERS

☐ Wayne Gretzky (Kings)	$5.95
☐ Wayne Gretzky (slapshot)	$5.95
☐ Eric Lindros (Flyers)	$5.95
☐ Pavel Bure (Canucks)	$5.95
☐ Pavel Bure (slapshot)	$5.95
☐ Teemu Selanne (Jets)	$5.95

WRESTLING T-SHIRTS

☐ Pro Wrestling Illustrated (Black: Med., Large)	$16.95

☐ **PLEASE RUSH THE ITEMS I HAVE CHECKED!**
I am enclosing the price listed plus the appropriate postage and handling charges (see below).

POSTAGE & HANDLING CHARGES:

*POSTERS & T-SHIRTS $3
(Canada/Foreign: $5 in U.S. funds; Airmail: $7 in U.S. funds)

*VIDEOS $4
(Canada/Foreign: $6 in U.S. funds; Airmail: $8 in U.S. funds)

*BOOKS $5
(Canada/Foreign: $8 in U.S. funds; Airmail: $12 in U.S. funds)

Please send to: London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

PLEASE INDICATE METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration date: ____/____ (MO/YR) Signature: _____

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

5912/03-02

THE JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT DIVISION

It's The Best In Boxing ...Tell Your Friends!

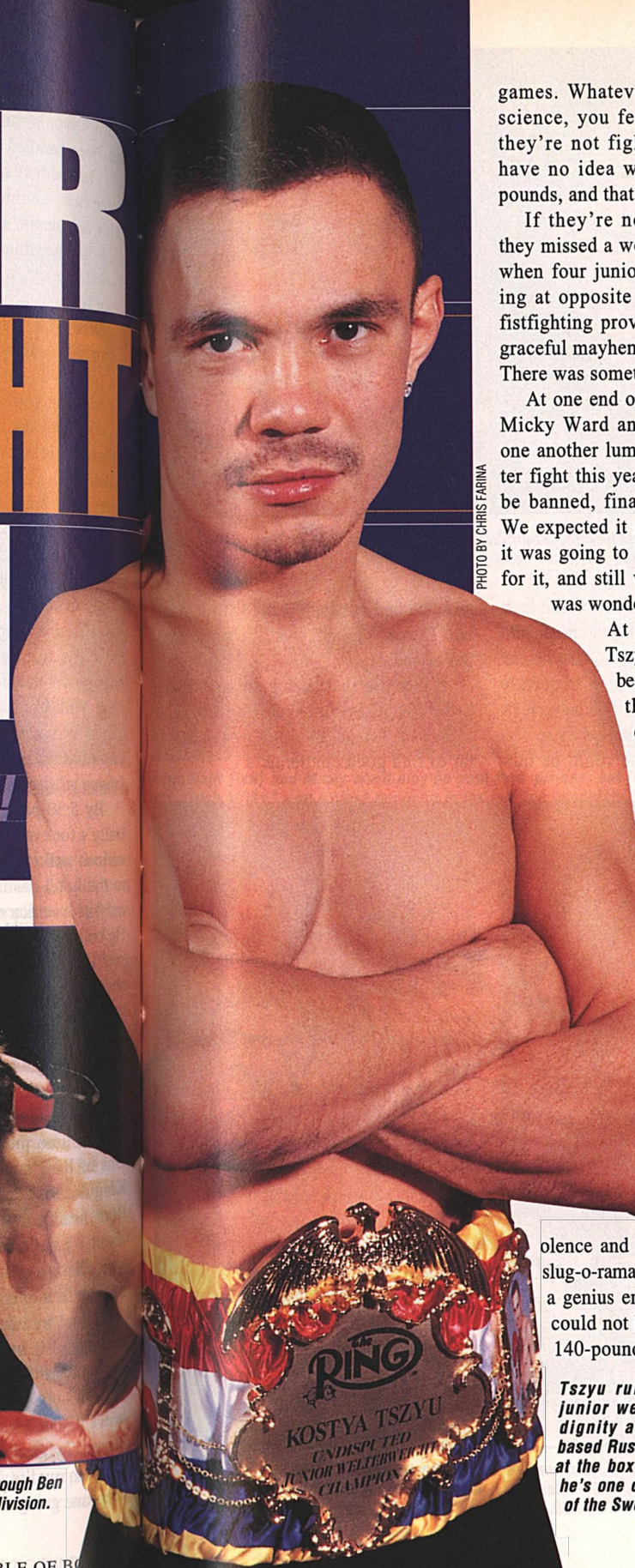


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

By William Dettloff

If you have a conscience at all, you have to feel sorry for all those guys out there who aren't fight fans. Maybe they used to be, but lost interest when rinky-dink ratings organizations started multiplying like rats and promoters and television networks helped them out by acknowledging them.

Maybe you know someone who was a fight or two away from being hooked for life like the rest of us are, and then they saw that one last rotten decision, or terrible mismatch, or maybe a ring death. It soured them, and we lost them forever. After that they turned on a football game or became hypnotized by the sight of gaudily painted cars driving around in circles and occasionally crashing into one another at high speeds and blowing up. Or they got hooked on the NBA or fly-fishing or watching ballgames. Whatever. If you have a conscience, you feel for them because if they're not fight fans anymore, they have no idea what's going on at 140 pounds, and that's a shame.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

Even though Kostya Tszyu dominated him in their recent championship bout, super tough Ben Tackie (left) remains a viable opponent for virtually anybody else in the 140-pound division.

If they're not fans anymore, then they missed a wondrous evening in May when four junior welterweights operating at opposite ends of the science of fistfighting provided 22 rounds of both graceful mayhem and clinical barbarism. There was something for everybody.

At one end of the evolutionary table, Micky Ward and Arturo Gatti slugged one another lumpy, and if there's a better fight this year, then the sport should be banned, finally, as too uncivilized. We expected it going in, we knew what it was going to be, we braced ourselves for it, and still we were blown away. It was wonderful.

At the other end, Kostya Tszyu, clearly the division's best prize fighter and one of the best in the business overall, used ethereal skill and the touch of an evil surgeon to completely handcuff the rock-hard Ben Tackie, as strong and willing a contender as you'll find in any weight class. Indeed, Tackie was coming off good, impressive wins over Ray Oliveira and Teddy Reid—two solid, 140-pound prize fighters—and by the end, Tszyu had him as docile as a kitten. The contest lacked the malevolence and drama of the Ward-Gatti slug-o-rama, but if you like watching a genius engrossed in his work, this could not be topped. Tszyu is not a 140-pound Willie Pep, and Tackie is no Sandy Saddler. But this was the work of an enlightened fighter.

Tszyu rules boxing's talent-rich junior welterweight division with dignity and pride. The Australia-based Russian might not be dynamite at the box office, but inside the ring he's one of today's finest proponents of the Sweet Science.

If this were most other weight classes, you'd figure those two fights were about the best it was going to get in terms of high-quality matches, that the division shot its load in a single night. Most other weight classes, you get a champion against a real, deserving top contender and then two more good top-10 contenders against one another on the same night, and the next time you see two guys in that division it's a swing fight on ESPN2. No one that's left can fight. That's not the case at junior welter, which is the best division in the game—and it's not close.

Yes, there are a couple of other fairly deep divisions. At featherweight and bantamweight, you can get all the way down to the number six or seven guy and say, yeah, I've seen that guy and he can fight. But with virtually every weight class besides junior welterweight, when you get to the bottom third or so of the top 10, the pickings are slim indeed. They're just not very deep. Junior welterweight is deep. Deeper than Don King's pockets. Deeper than Larry Merchant's analogies. We're talking deep. Not only can every guy in the top 10 fight, you can go almost down to 17 or 18 and still find very good fighters.

Every stage is represented: prospects, veterans, guys ready to make a move. And every style is there, too: bangers, boxers, counterpunchers. Junior welterweight has just about everything. It doesn't have the great, big names that welterweight had a few years ago, or back in the 1980s either, for that matter. There is no De La Hoya, Whitaker, Quartey, or Trinidad. Nor is there a Leonard, Hearns, Duran, or Benitez. The names aren't big. So what's so great about the division?

Start with Tszyu, one of only seven world champions recognized by THE RING.

Forget that he's alternately inaccessible and aloof when dealing with the American fight press. Forget that he's promoted about as well as athlete's foot, or that he's a Russian living in Australia, or that he doesn't talk smack

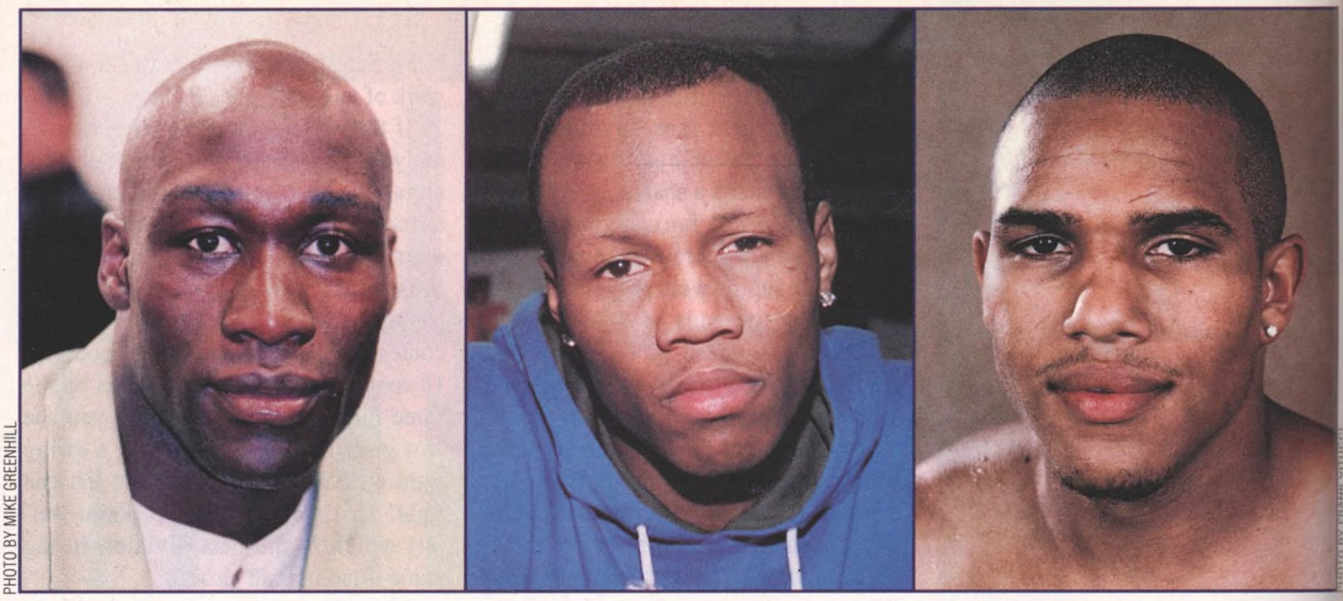


PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

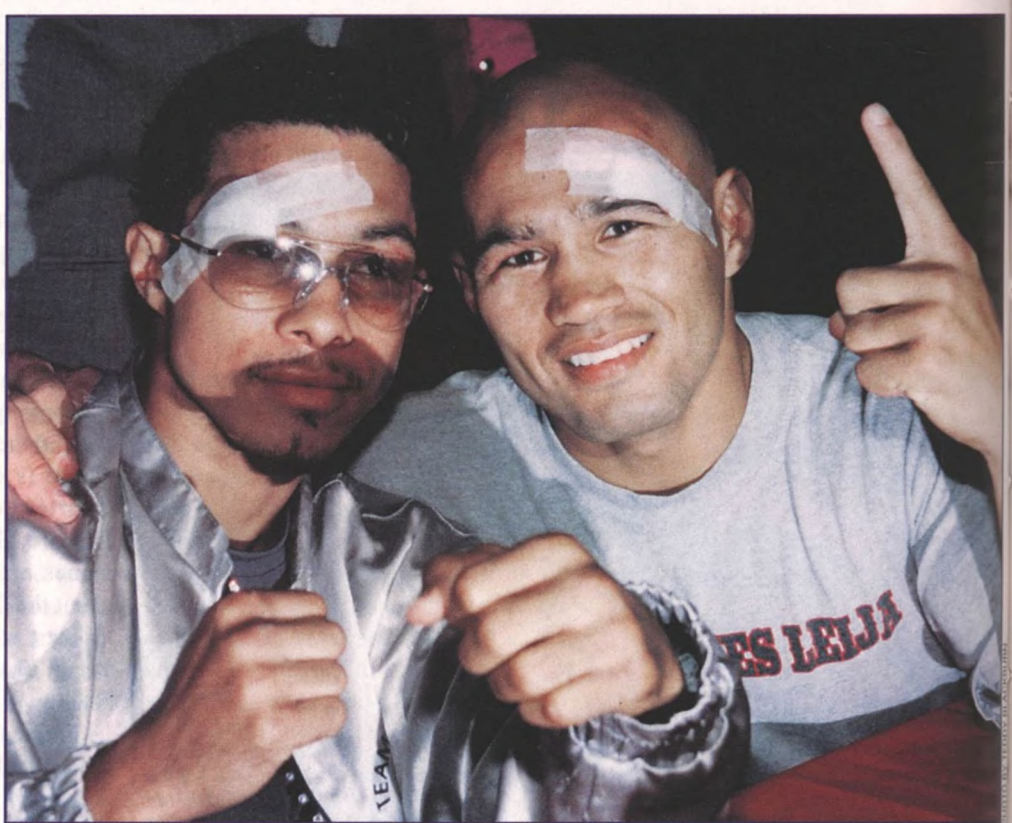
Streaking "Chop Chop" Corley (left) and former titleholders Zab Judah (middle) and Sharmba Mitchell all want to fight Tszyu, even though Judah and Mitchell have already lost to him. The gifted trio is indicative of the division's depth of talent.

like so many of today's more "marketable" guys. (Quiet dignity doesn't sell well these days unless you're Evander Holyfield, and it took him a hell of a long time to catch on.) All of those things conspired to create the pitifully meager assemblage on hand to watch Tszyu's skillful dissection of poor Tackie. None of it means he can't fight.

Tszyu, 29-1-1 (23), has whipped every fighter he's been in with, excepting Vince Phillips, and for all the reports over the last couple of years that he's slowing down, he looks to us better than ever. Ask Zab Judah or Sharmba Mitchell, the two guys Tszyu stopped to unify the 140-pound title, if Tszyu has slowed at all. You can say if you want that Mitchell had a bum knee and that the Judah fight was stopped prematurely, but the best fighters win; others find excuses for having lost. Tszyu has won almost every time out.

The clinic Tszyu put on against Tackie was terrible news for the rest of the world's junior welterweights; it showed that, despite indications to the contrary, he hasn't in the least forgotten the technical skills that made him a legend in the amateur ranks—that he can box as well as punch. He's so frequently stronger than his opponents that he typically plods headlong into them, so there was hope among some that he could be outmuscled and outslugged by a stronger guy like Tackie. No such luck; the guy is multidimensional.

It's fitting that such a strong supporting cast challenges a champion as superb as Tszyu. You don't have to look far to find good challengers.



While former hot prospect Hector Camacho Jr. has tumbled out of the junior welter ratings due to a recent string of shoddy showings, popular Texan Jesse James Leija, who fought to a controversial no-contest with Camacho in July '01, is still in the title hunt at age 36.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Arturo Gatti (left) and Micky Ward may be past their primes, but they are hotter than ever following their epic war at Mohegan Sun Casino in May. "Irish Micky" won a close decision in the leading candidate for Fight of the Year.

Mitchell, 48-3 (29) and the former WBA titleholder, is rid finally of Don King, a development he has sought for a time and that he hopes will revive his career. It is easy to underrate Mitchell; there were moments in each of his four successful title defenses that were more arduously navigated than it seemed they should have been, the result of what one can guess were lapses in concentration, where he forgot to use his legs. But he gave Tszyu a much tougher battle in defeat than Judah did, and with two good legs, who knows?

DeMarcus "Chop Chop" Corley, in addition to having one of the cooler nicknames in the game, might be right with Mitchell in terms of speed. Like Mitchell, he's a southpaw, and looks to carry a bit more pop in his gloves. If you had questions about Corley, 27-1-1 (16) after his first fight with veteran Ener Julio—a curi-

PHOTO BY STEVE MATTEO/HBO

In another battle between top junior welters, Diobelys Hurtado (right) came off the floor to stop vicious-hitting Randall Bailey. Despite suffering his second loss, due to his one-punch kayo power, Bailey remains a significant player at 140.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Popular young Brit Ricky Hatton recently scored the biggest win of his career, outpointing Eamonn Magee over 12 action-packed rounds. Hatton's one of the many fringe contenders bringing excitement to the junior welterweight division.

ous decision—he answered them in the rematch when he took Julio apart. He could be the sleeper in the division.

Judah, 27-1 (21) with 1 no-contest, was seen by nearly everyone last year as the most serious threat to Tszyu's championship. It seemed obvious. Despite a penchant for getting rocked and floored early in fights—not unlike Trinidad—he blazed through opponent after opponent, not always looking spectacular, but getting the job done with athleticism and speed, speed, speed. It turns out the knockdowns—including the one Tszyu scored to end their fight—probably are due to carelessness more than anything. He'll likely always have a problem against bangers who punch straight, but who doesn't want to see him fight again?

Give Judah credit for reportedly agreeing to take on the slick, underrated Omar Weis, 35-3-3 (16), in his first comeback fight. Weis may be an anomaly for Argentine fighters; we're used to less disciplined types. But a pair of televised robberies—a loss to Antonio Diaz and a draw against Ray Oliveria—showed Weis is a superb technician, as did his drubbing of an ill-prepared Hector Camacho Jr. He's no big puncher, though, which assuredly is one of the reasons Camp Judah went for him.

If the game plan for Judah is to avoid punchers, be certain you won't see him anytime soon against Randall Bailey, 25-2 (25). Don't be misled by Bailey's recent collapse against the rejuvenated Diobelys Hurtado, against whom he fought an amateurish fight. Bailey is the hardest puncher in the division and one of the purest hitters in the game. If he hits you on the chin, you'll go. Just because Hurtado took his shots and came back, it doesn't mean everyone will.

Hurtado, 35-2-1 (23) and a former Cuban amateur star, has been educated and knocked out by the duo of Whitaker and Tszyu, so he was prepared for Bailey. He's neither a classic boxer nor a big puncher, but he does everything well enough to trouble anyone else in the division. Remember, he had Tszyu on the deck twice before folding from a murderous body attack.

Speaking of murderous body attacks, who would have thought a few years ago that Ward, 38-11 (27), would, at the age of 36, be on top of the world? It probably would be overstating it to say that he's fighting better now than he ever has; remember, his recent battles against Jesse James Leija and Gatti were fought against guys at around the same stage in their careers—that is, toward the end. Also, Emanuel Augustus is a tough clubfighter, not a world-class contender. It might be time, anyway, to appoint Ward the best bodypuncher in the business. After all, when did you think you would ever see Arturo Gatti, 34-6 (28), on the deck from a body blow? Gatti is not the fighter he used to be, and that's good and bad. Good because he's not the face-first guy we remember and love so much from his days at junior lightweight, bad because he's frayed a bit at the edges. He's thrilling still, but a little less able to sustain a challenging pace. He'd be well-advised to stay away from the top guys in the weight class, but against anyone from say, seven or eight

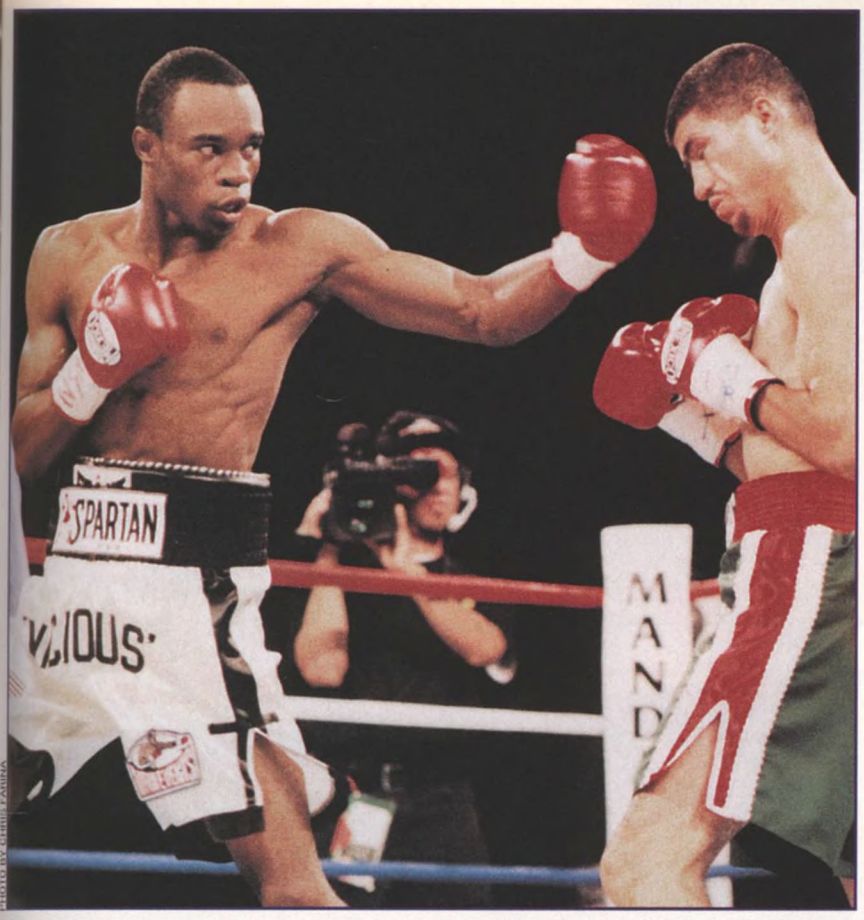


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

In most divisions, a young, strong, once-beaten fighter like "Vicious" Vivian Harris (pictured winning a 10-round battle against Jose Juarez) would probably be a top-10 contender. In the stacked 140-pound class, however, he barely makes the top 20.

on down, he has a hell of a shot.

We wouldn't mind seeing Gatti against Leija, who was the happy if sheepish beneficiary of that tainted win over Ward, when a probable punch that was ruled a headbutt led to a stoppage and technical decision win. Of the three popular veterans in the top 10—Leija, Ward, and Gatti—Leija, 43-5-2 (17) with 1 no-contest, might have the least left, but he was giving it to Ward good early on. If that fight had continued, who knows what might have happened? Ward was coming on at the end, but maybe we'd have gotten Leija-Gatti then instead of Ward-Gatti.

In most other divisions, we'd be done by now talking about the best fighters. We're not close with the junior welterweights. Hell, we're not even done with the top 10. Oktay Urkal, 30-1 (10), gave Tszyu all he could handle in a decision loss before Tszyu beat Judah. He's awkward enough and fast enough with his hands to trouble anyone in the division.

Tackie, despite the one-sidedness of his loss to Tszyu, would have to be made a favorite against anyone in the lower half of the top 10. He's still cut from granite, still tireless, and still probably the hardest-working guy in the weight class outside of Tszyu.

Want more? Try British puncher Ricky Hatton. Want to see Hatton in a real test? There are plenty of tough junior welterweight veterans in the top 20. Try Oliveira. Or former champ Phillips. Try Reid or Golden Johnson or Julio or Terronn Millett. Want to match Hatton with another prospect? Call Vivian Harris. Then, in another year or two, there will be more hot prospects in need of tests, provided they don't grow into welterweights: Miguel Cotto, Panchito Bojado, Ricardo Williams. The junior welterweight division is only going to get better, and that's saying something. So grab those guys you know who used to be fight fans but bailed out too early. Bring them back. Show them what's happening at 140 pounds. They'll thank you for it. ■

STRIKE™

IT'S YOUR IDENTITY

MAGNIFICENTLY DETAILED AND HAND CRAFTED PAIR OF 14K BOXING GLOVES FEATURED WITH THE COMBINATION OF YELLOW AND WHITE GOLD.
APPROX. WEIGHT - 20GR.
HEIGHT - ONE INCH.
TOTAL CARAT WEIGHT OF THE DIAMONDS - 0.50 CT.(HALF A CARAT).
PRICE $2,250 AND UP.
ALL DESIGNS IN THE STRIKE™ COLLECTION ARE EXCLUSIVE AND PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAWS.

EXCLUSIVE RETAIL DISTRIBUTORS AVAILABLE IN N.Y.

AVAILABLE IN SILVER, 14K, 18K, OR PLATINUM.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.STRIKE-INC.COM
TO SEE OUR ENTIRE COLLECTION

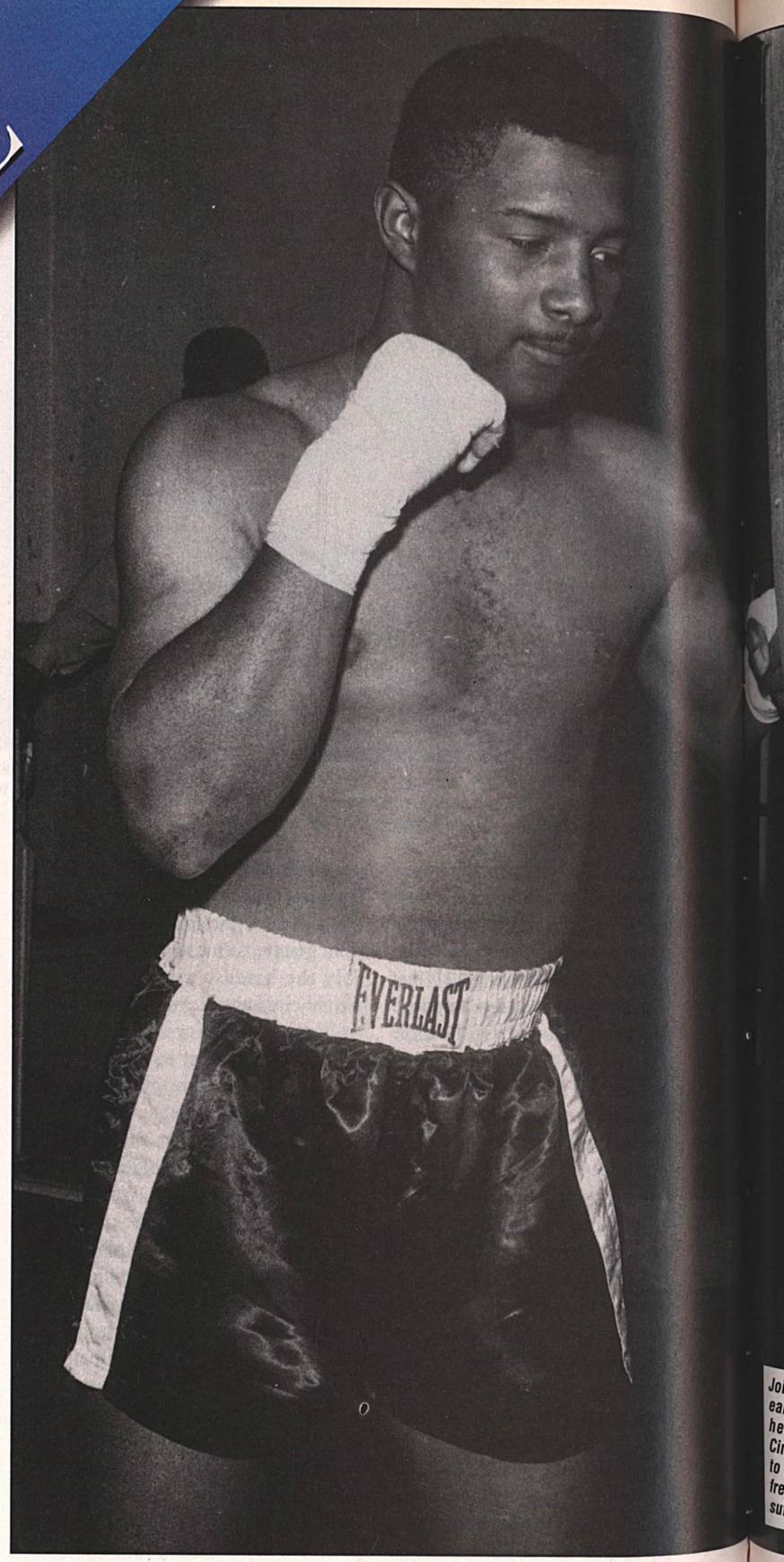
TO ORDER OR FOR INFORMATION, CALL (212) 471-4950

© 1999-2002 STRIKE, INC., AND ALL OF ITS PRODUCTS ARE COPY RIGHT PROTECTED. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

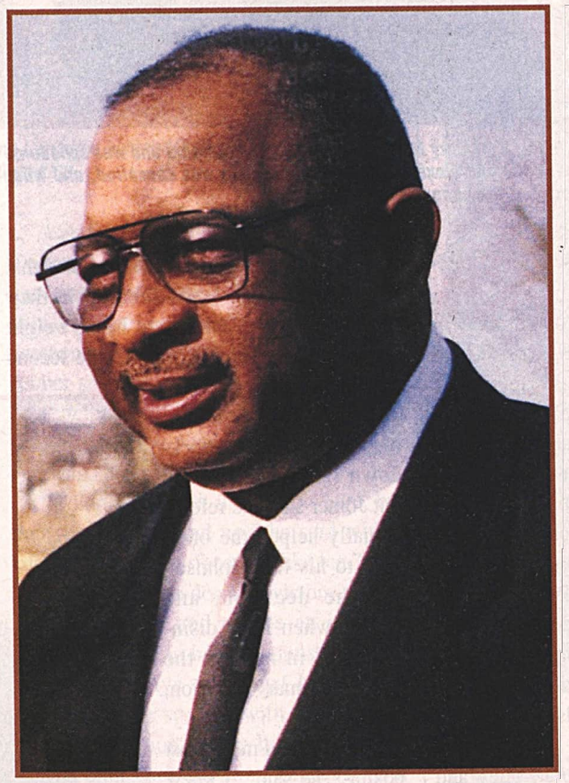
The RING UPDATE

Billy JOINER

"I Didn't Get A Night's Sleep For 17 Years"



Joiner, working the heavybag during the early part of his pro career (left) and as he looks today (right). Although the Cincinnati heavyweight was good enough to compete with the best of his era, he frequently took bouts on short notice and suffered the consequences.



By Pete Ehrmann

The road to the top in boxing is potholed, slippery, and strewn with garbage, not to mention the wreckage of hopefuls who couldn't handle its hairpin turns and wooly curves.

Billy Joiner had the pedigree and talent to surmount all that, but early in his career, the Cincinnati heavyweight decided he was better off concentrating on roads more traveled—900 miles of them, to be exact, in his native Hamilton County, Ohio—and making boxing a sideline to his full-time job with the state highway department. So he fought sporadically, often on a few days or weeks notice, expending only enough of himself to keep from getting hurt and bring home a supplemental paycheck to his wife and four children. And even then he became a top-10 contender in the late-1960s, and was almost the first bump in the road encountered by Muhammad Ali when the latter prepared for his return from boxing exile in 1970.

"If I had it to do over again," concedes Joiner, now 63, "I would do it different." Back then, "I wasn't going to put out 100 percent. Now, I would do 150 percent."

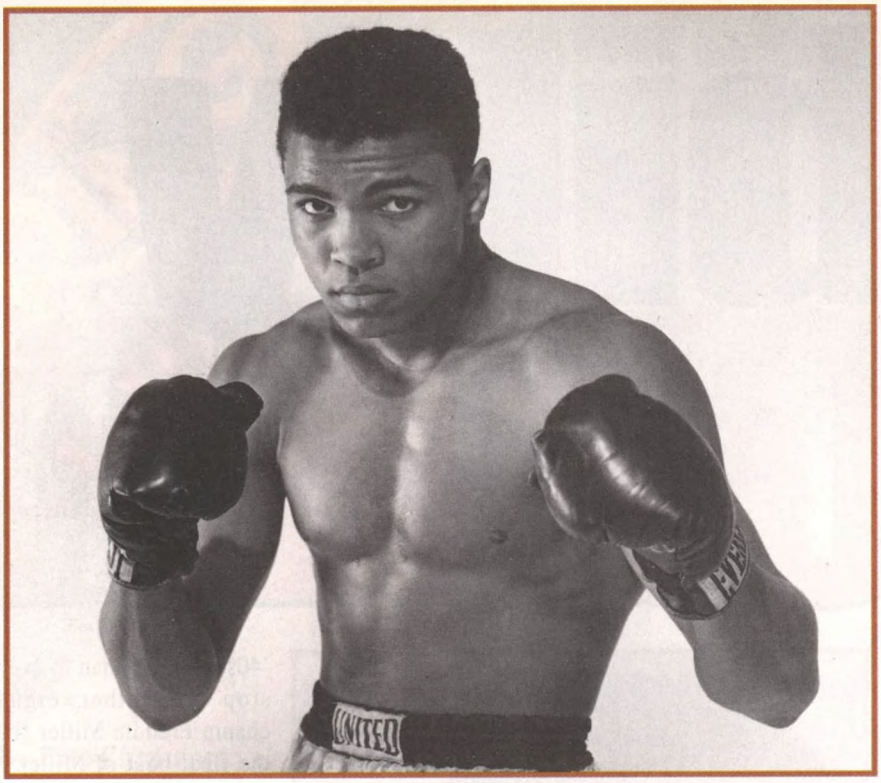
It's a lesson Joiner imparts to the fighters he trains today at the Mt. Auburn Recreation Center in his hometown. That includes junior welterweight prospect Ricardo Williams, with whom Joiner has worked since the 2000 U.S. Olympian was as young as Joiner was himself when his father first took him to the gym.

"I didn't have a choice," Joiner said.

His father, John, once fought an exhibition with triple-champion Henry Armstrong, and as a trainer later started out Wallace "Bud" Smith, who would become world lightweight champion in the 1950s. Billy Joiner's uncle, Hershel Joiner, was a prominent welterweight contender in the '40s, the only man to ever stop ex-featherweight champ Freddie Miller (in the final bout of Miller's career).

Just as following his elders into the ring was a natural thing for Billy, so was getting the spit knocked out of him by his older brother, John Jr., for the first few years of their boxing apprenticeship. That stopped when Billy outgrew him, and by the time he dropped out of high school to join the Air Force, there was no bigger star on the local amateur scene. In 1958 and '59, Joiner fought his way to the finals of the National Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions as a light heavyweight. Both times he lost, but the third time, in 1962, was the charm. Joiner also won the National Amateur Athletic Union title then.

Two years earlier, a Louisville youngster won the U.S. Olympic Trials in the 175-pound class. Before heading to Rome for the 1960 Olympic Games, where he would take the gold medal, future heavyweight champion Cassius Clay (later Muhammad Ali) had two fights in Ohio. Joiner was his opponent both times, and in



Joiner lost two close decisions to the legendary Muhammad Ali in the amateurs and was scheduled to be his first comeback opponent after Ali's exile. But the original date was cancelled, and when Ali finally did return, Jerry Quarry was the opponent.

each instance Clay was awarded a one-point victory.

Winner of all but nine of 92 amateur fights, Joiner turned pro in Madison Square Garden on August 25, 1962. Opponent Julie Dickins' physical resemblance to the great Joe Louis was a little unsettling at first, but Joiner took him out in two. Then Marion Conners went in five, before Joiner faced an opponent who not only sounded more butch, but had beaten Cassius Clay in the 1958 Pan-American Trials, and was 5-0 when he met Joiner at the Akron Armory on November 19, 1963. In what was regarded as an upset, Amos Johnson lost a 10-round decision to the 22-year-old Cincinnati boxer.

Top-10 heavyweights Zora Folley and George Chuvalo put a national TV audience to sleep in their main event on January 17, 1964, but the semi-final between Joiner and Lou Bailey—fighting in his 43rd bout, to just four for Joiner—got a standing ovation from the 5,000-plus fans in Cleveland. Joiner won the 10-round decision over the crafty veteran, and then posted three more wins before the fight that made him a full-time highway engineer.

Highway robbery is what he calls what happened against Amos Johnson in their rematch for the Ohio State heavyweight title on September 11, 1964. In the second round, Johnson went down three times. Not only was no three-knockdown rule in force then, but Joiner said the referee actually helped the other man to his feet. Johnson got the decision, and "that's when I got disinterested" in making the ring his primary vocation, Joiner said.

"That turned me against boxing," he said. "I knew I won the fight. I told myself, 'If fighting is going to be this way, I'll just concentrate on my job [with the highway department]. I'll fight just when they call me.' After that first loss, boxing was just a sideline."

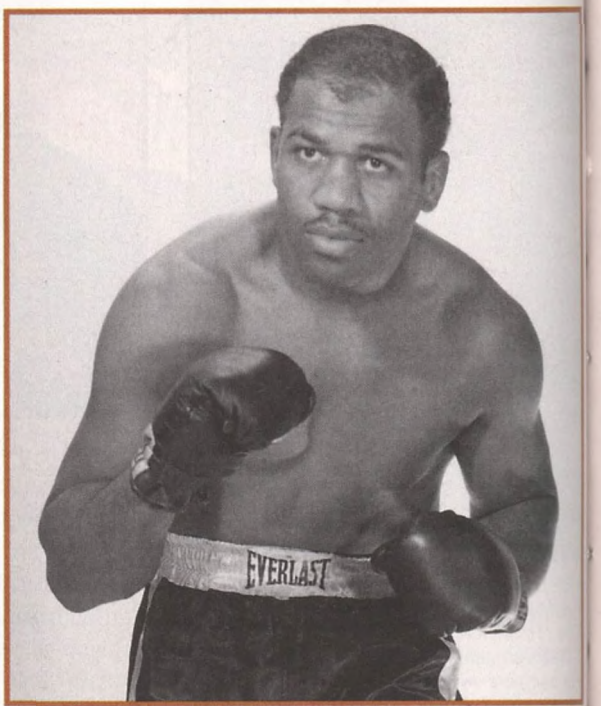
Joiner's my-way-or-the-highway attitude didn't keep him from Madison Square Garden about two months later, where he put the first loss on the record of '63 Pan-American Games champion Lee Carr. It was an easy win for Joiner, but the media attention all went to undefeated heavyweight Oscar Bonavena, who won his seventh straight bout on the same card.

Through all of '65, the Ohioan was inactive as a competitor, although Joiner did work as a sparring partner for Chuvalo when the Canadian champion prepared for his fight with former world champ Floyd Patterson. At Chuvalo's New York training camp, Joiner had a reunion with an old amateur nemesis who'd come for a look at the Great White North contender. Now the heavyweight champion, Muhammad Ali told reporters, "Joiner's fast and sharp. He's got to get a little more hitting power, learn to pace himself, and take a punch and learn some professional moves. He's good."

Trouble was, Joiner just wasn't that interested anymore.

"I never had any expectation of becoming champion or anything like that," he said. "That fight with Johnson made me say I was in it just to supplement my income."

Thus, Joiner fought for pay just twice in '66, beating Bert Brownfield and getting



Joiner upset contender Amos Johnson the first time they fought. But when Johnson won the rematch, Joiner became disenchanted with boxing and lost much of his ambition.

One of Joiner's biggest wins came against streaking Canadian contender Bob Cleroux in 1969. The easy decision victory earned the American a top-10 ranking.

stopped by ranked contender Hubert Hilton in another fluky situation that persuaded him to take a year-long sabbatical on the highway crew.

"I was beating Hubert," he said. "I hate to say things about losing, but I think I got hit with rosin. In the corner, I saw his glove on the canvas. In the next round, a short uppercut grazed my cheek, and my eyeball swelled up like I had broken blood vessels. He wasn't that devastating a puncher. I was beating Hilton like I owned him."

The lure of additional income brought Joiner back in late-'67 against big punching Jimmy Fletcher, a former football player from Los Angeles who once knocked out Thad Spencer. Fletcher got a decision in Las Vegas, but a rematch in Reno went to Joiner.

"We had a knockdown fight that was so good people were throwing money in the ring," Joiner recalled.

Paydays were decent overseas for American heavyweights who didn't mind putting up with officials who put patriotism over fairness. Before huge crowds in Bologna, Italy, Joiner cruised against national champ Piero Tomasoni and huge Dante Cane, and in both cases came away with only a draw.

Against national hero Jurgin Blin in Germany, Joiner said they decided to slow him down before he even got in the ring. While Joiner was in his dressing room, someone came in and gave him a pair of rubber-soled boxing shoes to wear in the fight, telling him it was for his own benefit. The agreeable Joiner laced the shoes on and walked out to the ring.

"I didn't realize it until I got there, but then I couldn't stand up," he said with a laugh. "The ring surface was like ice."

Blin skated to a decision victory.

Some skates and maybe an ice pick would've come in handy against the only man Joiner says ever hurt him in the ring. When he sparred with then-heavyweight champion Sonny Liston in early-'64, "I didn't see anything unusual about him," Joiner said. "He was just a big, scary-looking guy. In my mind, I knew if I used speed on him, I could outpoint him."

The opportunity came on May 23, 1968, at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles. Liston was several years removed from the time when he was Tyrannosaurus Rex to everybody else's Puff the Magic Dragon, but he was still far

(Continued on page 78)

Billy Joiner

(Continued from page 77)

from toothless, and Joiner found himself impaled on the famous Liston left jab.

"I couldn't get away from it," he said, "and after so many rounds it started taking a toll. I hit him with my best shot and didn't do any damage. Everyplace I moved, that jab was hitting me."

After six deadly rounds of that, "they tried to push me back out [for the seventh], but I said, 'I'm not going back out there.'"

Ten months later, he changed his mind. For the rematch in St. Louis, Joiner ate and trained better, and decided that instead of trying to outrun Liston, he would try to outthink him.

"It was real close," he said of the fight, which went to Liston on a decision. "I thought I did enough to win. It could've gone both ways. St. Louis was Liston's hometown, anyway. They told me that Liston went in the dressing room after the fight and laid on the table. I was running him out of gas."

Joiner did the same thing in his next fight, on July 31, 1969, against Robert Cleroux in Montreal. Ranked in the top 10, Cleroux had a decent winning streak going, and Jimmy Ellis, who'd become recognized as heavyweight champion by the WBA after Ali was stripped of the title for refusing to be inducted into the Army, was at ringside to guarantee hometown idol Cleroux a shot at his belt. Joiner ruined that by winning an easy decision over the befuddled slugger, and suddenly the part-time boxer who'd long ago shelved his dreams of ring glory in favor of a steady paycheck from the highway department found himself in the heavyweight fast lane.

At age 31, Joiner was a ranked contender, and while a split decision loss to longtime contender Zora Folley a few months after the Cleroux fight dropped him to 10th in the ratings, it also probably sealed the deal to make Joiner the first opponent for Ali when the boycotted ex-champion announced his intention to put on the gloves again.

"Sure, I know what they're thinking," said Joiner after the announcement of the match, scheduled for January 10, 1970. "They figure I can't hurt him. They picked on somebody they believe won't cause Clay trouble."

Ali, 27, hadn't fought in nearly three years. The match was scheduled for 10 rounds, at a 4,000-seat rodeo arena near Tulsa, Oklahoma. There was no state boxing commission to worry about, but immediately the veterans' organizations, dedicated to keeping conscientious objector Ali unemployed in boxing, began howling against the match, even though it was supposed to be a charity event to aid mentally retarded kids. Ali eventually pulled out.

"I didn't like the conditions, and the contender [Joiner] wasn't qualified," Ali said. "I'm too great to go down so cheap."

The disappointed Joiner figured differently, of course.

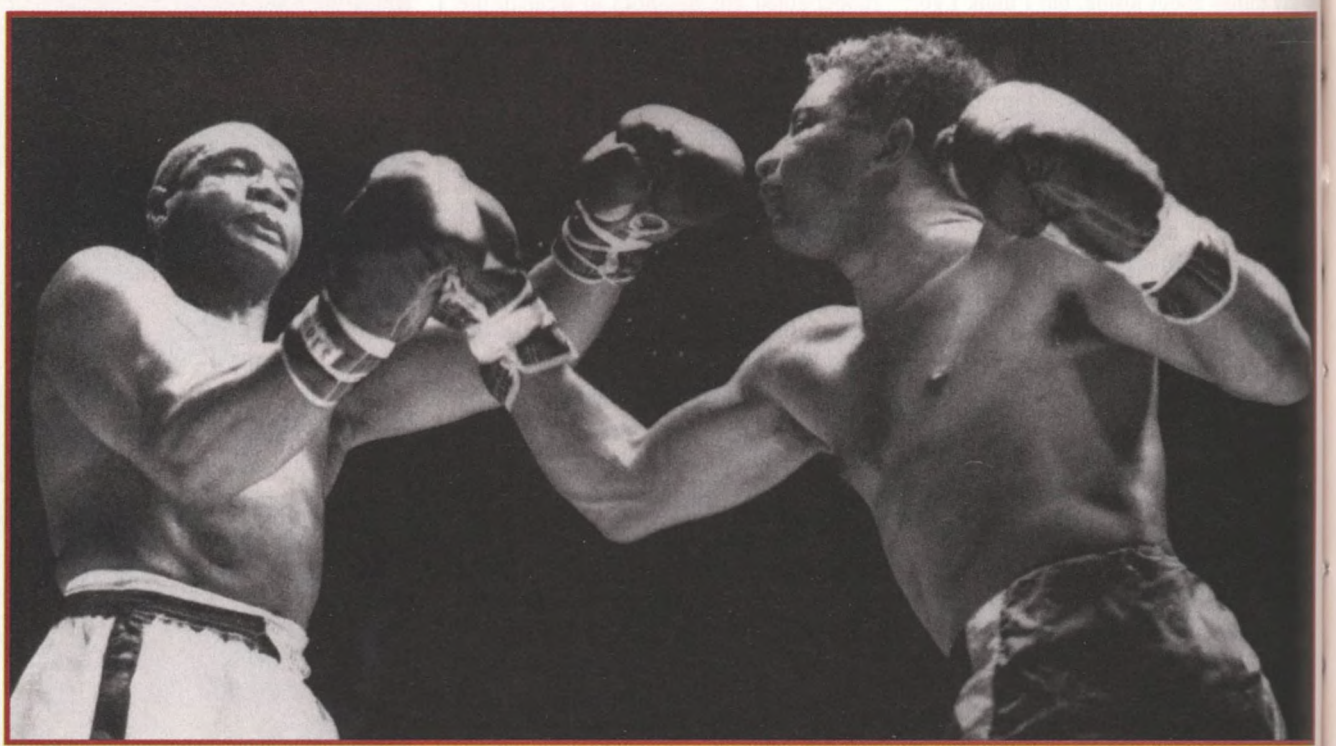
"I think it was because he couldn't get in shape," he said at the time. "I feel he couldn't get ready in time. His gut looked kinda flabby."

Joiner still believes today that the fight would've surprised the boxing world.

"Oh man, I was excited—and really ready," he recollected. "I was running backwards and everything. I don't think he'd have been able to beat me at that time."

While Ali did come back later that year against Jerry Quarry, Joiner resumed the life of an occasional boxer, not really caring about much beyond whether the promoter's check cleared, while steadily climbing the pecking order at the highway department back home. If a promoter needed a name heavyweight in a hurry, he was always available.

"I knew I wasn't in condition, but I



Sonny Liston and Joiner fought twice. In their first meeting, Liston stopped the Cincinnati boxer in the seventh round. In the rematch (pictured), Joiner, training more seriously than the first time, did much better and lost a close 10-round decision.

Joiner slams a right into the face of gigantic Young "Playboy" Louis, whom the 42-year-old Joiner defeated via 10-round decision in 1981 in Detroit. Soon after, Joiner retired from the ring to concentrate on his job with the Ohio Highway Department.

knew I wasn't going to get hurt," he said. "The main goal was to make sure everything's all right on the home front. I fought till I got tired, and then I couldn't do no more. I would fall out. No use in letting a guy beat on you if you're in no condition.

"I took some fights I knew I wasn't in condition for, and I'd do my best. But once the gas went, I would go, too, in order to protect myself."

That was the case, Joiner says, when he fought Larry Holmes on December 20, 1975, and was stopped in the third round by the future world champion.

"I hadn't been in the gym in a year," he said. "I fought until I got tired, and then I couldn't do no more. If I'd had two weeks training, I would've stopped him. I knew the condition I was in, and that there was no sense in trying to pace myself for 10 rounds. So I went right after him and ran out of gas. I didn't get hurt or anything. At the bell I was right on him. Then I ran out of gas and I was looking for someplace to fall."

In his 1998 autobiography, *Larry Holmes: Against The Odds,* the former heavyweight champion recalled that promoter Don King asked him beforehand to carry Joiner, only to get into the ring and have the Ohio fighter lay "some serious licks on me. Right hands that hurt. Happened in the opening round, and again in the second."

"This motherf___er's dangerous," screamed Richie Giachetti, Holmes' trainer, after the second round. "He's a professional fighter ... Take him out of there!"

With just a little training under his belt, Joiner was more than a handful for anybody. He had two weeks notice before fighting Oscar Bonavena on February 26, 1976. Joiner not only didn't "fall out," even after being floored twice, but fought back so determinedly that in the ninth and 10th rounds appreciative fans threw money into the ring.

Bonavena got the decision in what turned out to be the final fight of his life, promoted by Mustang Ranch owner Joe Conforte (at whose Nevada brothel Bonavena would be gunned down three months later). But, wrote Steve Sneddon of the *Nevada State Journal,* "the majority of fans were firmly behind Joiner from the seventh round on. They cheered wildly as he traded punches toe-to-toe in the final rounds with the seventh-ranked heavyweight in the world ... Throughout the fight, Joiner, 201, was able to beat Bonavena, 218, to the punch."

Gasped the Argentine fighter afterward, "The guy was a little bit better than I thought he'd be."

Joiner continued to grab a quick payday here and there, and in 1981, when he was 42, he won a 10-round decision over Young "Playboy" Louis, who went into the fight with a 13-2 record.

Fending off young bucks between the ropes actually wasn't half as stressful as Joiner's day job, especially after he was put in charge of maintaining all 900 miles of roads in Hamilton County, with a crew of 400 under him.

"Anything that happened on my roads, I was the first one called," he said. "Basically, I didn't get a night's sleep for 17 years."

If you think the first thing he did upon retiring in 1995 was get some uninterrupted shut-eye, you win a cookie. For the whole next year, Joiner would sleep until 5 p.m. every day, with the phone off the hook.

Now that he's rested, Joiner has energy for almost daily fishing and looking after the young fighters he has helped develop over the years. Chief among them is Williams, the Olympic silver medalist Joiner trains with Williams' dad and Mike Stafford.

Most mornings, Joiner leads the junior welterweight contender with, he says, "more talent than just about anybody I ever saw" in roadwork around Lunken Airport in Cincinnati. Williams runs; Joiner pedals a bike.

"He's a real good trainer," said the fighter. "He's got a lot of wisdom, and he stays on your back 24/7, and doesn't let you make no mistakes."

Anything less, Cincinnati's road warrior knows from personal experience, is a one-way ticket down boxing's lost highway. Billy Joiner is too old and wise to wring his hands over decisions he made as a young man, but he's aware of what could have been: "If I knew then what I do now, I probably would have become some kind of champ." ■

Pete Ehrmann is a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

The RING READER SURVEY!

This is a survey to find out exactly what sort of person reads THE RING. What stories and features in the magazine do you enjoy the most? What causes you to buy THE RING—and what causes you to pass an issue by on the newsstand? What changes would you make in the magazine if given the chance?

Let us know by filling out the survey below. Use the actual page, make a photocopy, or you can request an electronic version of the survey by e-mailing us at londonpub@kappapublishing.com (please specify THE RING survey in the subject field). Feel free to include as many additional comments as you wish. The whole point of this survey is for us to get feedback from you, the readers.

You'll see on the survey that there's a spot for your name and address. You can, of course, remain anonymous in your comments. But by including your name, you will become eligible to receive a small thank you: We'll pick 20 surveys at random and send those 20 fans a copy of the *2002 Ring Almanac*.

Thanks for your input.

YOU ARE: [ ] Male [ ] Female

YOUR AGE: [ ] under 10 [ ] 11-13 [ ] 14-16 [ ] 17-19 [ ] 20-25 [ ] 26-30 [ ] 31-40 [ ] 41-50 [ ] 51-60 [ ] 61-70 [ ] over 71

YOU ARE: [ ] Married [ ] Unmarried

HOW MANY BOXING MAGAZINES A MONTH DO YOU BUY? [ ] one [ ] two [ ] three [ ] more than three

HOW DID YOU GET THIS COPY OF *THE RING* [ ] newsstand [ ] subscription

HOW MANY OF THE LAST FOUR ISSUES OF *THE RING* HAVE YOU READ OR LOOKED THROUGH?
[ ] four [ ] three [ ] two [ ] one

NOT INCLUDING YOURSELF, HOW MANY OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS READ OR LOOKED THROUGH THE LAST ISSUE OF *THE RING*?____

WERE THEY ...
Under 18 years of age____?
Over 18 years of age____?
Male____? Female____?

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS HAVE YOU OR OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS TAKEN IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS AS A RESULT OF READING *THE RING?*
Cut out an article____
Cut out an advertisement____
Cut out and used a coupon____
Purchased a product advertised____
Ordered merchandise or service by mail or phone____
Called an 800 number____
Sent or called for information on a product advertised____
Purchased a subscription____
Purchased a back issue____

WHAT BOXING PROGRAMS DO YOU WATCH REGULARLY?
[ ] HBO World Championship Boxing
[ ] Boxing After Dark
[ ] Showtime Championship Boxing
[ ] ShoBox
[ ] ESPN2 Friday Night Fights
[ ] FOX SportsNet Sunday Night Fights
[ ] ThunderBox
[ ] Solo Boxeo
[ ] Boxeo Telemundo
[ ] other (specify:_____)

HOW MANY PAY-PER-VIEW CARDS HAVE YOU PURCHASED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?
[ ] none [ ] one [ ] two [ ] three [ ] four
[ ] five [ ] six [ ] more than six

HOW MANY LIVE BOXING CARDS HAVE YOU ATTENDED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?
[ ] none [ ] one [ ] two [ ] three [ ] four
[ ] five [ ] six [ ] more than six

DO YOU OWN A VIDEO GAME SYSTEM? [ ] yes [ ] no

IF SO, WHICH ONE(s)?
[ ] Playstation 2 [ ] Xbox
[ ] Game Cube [ ] Game Boy Advance
[ ] N64 [ ] Dreamcast

HOW MANY VIDEO GAMES HAVE YOU PURCHASED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?
_____

HOW MUCH, IN TOTAL, HAVE YOU OR OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS SPENT ON VIDEO GAMES IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS? _____

HOW MUCH, IN TOTAL, HAVE YOU SPENT ON BOXING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR THE LAST 12 MONTHS?
_____

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SNACK FOOD? _____

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BEVERAGE?_____

DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO AN ON-LINE INTERNET SERVICE?
[ ] yes [ ] no

DO YOU FOLLOW BOXING ON THE INTERNET?
[ ] yes [ ] no

WHICH BOXING INTERNET SITES DO YOU UTILIZE?
_____
_____
_____
_____

WHAT OTHER MAGAZINES (BOXING OR OTHERWISE) DO YOU READ REGULARLY?
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT *THE RING*?
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

WHAT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO CHANGE ABOUT *THE RING*?
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

YOUR NAME:_____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY:_____

STATE:_____ **ZIP:**_____

E-MAIL ADDRESS:_____

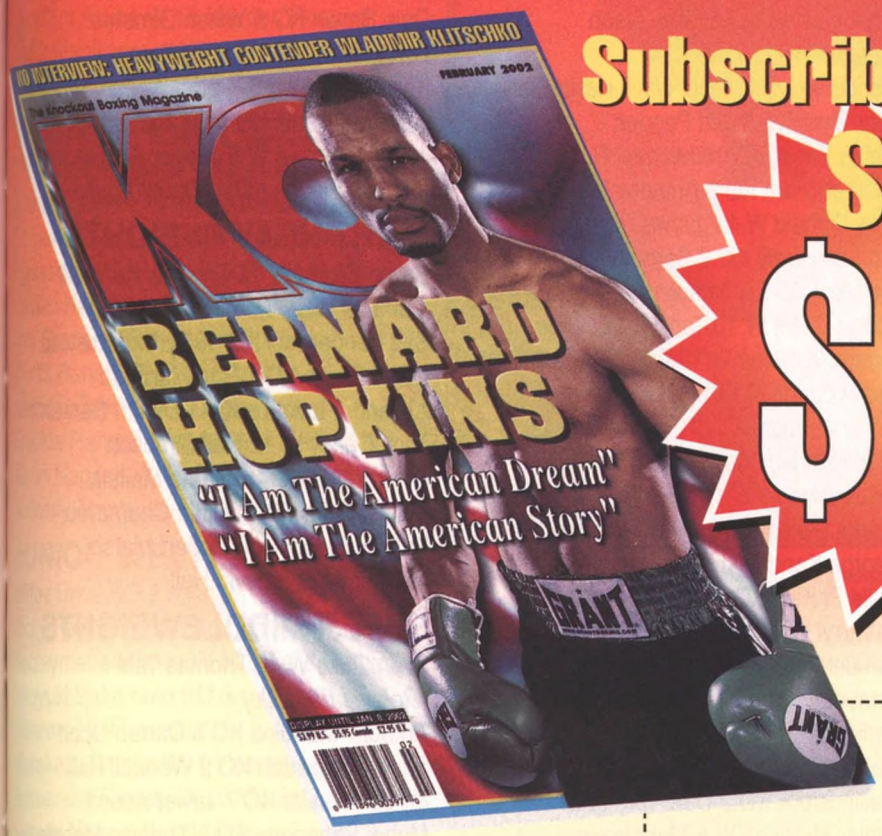
THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR INPUT!

MAIL YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY TO:

THE RING READER SURVEY
c/o London Publishing
Box 1148
Fort Washington, PA 19034

THE KNOCKOUT MAGAZINE

In Knockout Color ... At Knockout Savings!



Subscribe Today And Save $5

Subscribe to *KO* for six issues and pocket a cool savings of nearly five bucks, plus you'll enjoy the convenience of getting *KO* delivered to your door. It couldn't be easier.

KO has entertained and informed fight fans for a generation with its trademark of excellence—the most informed feature writers, controversial columnists, and accomplished photographers. Now *KO* offers this package in an all-color, glossy format!

KO The Boxing Fans' Magazine

Send to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2021
Marion, OH 43306-8121

SAVE ALMOST $5.00!

☐ YES! I would like to receive 6 issues of *KO* for $19.00!

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card # _____

Expiration Date: ___/___ MO/YR

Signature: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. ____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Price applies in U.S. only. Canada and all foreign countries: $23.80 ($34.00 airmail). International money orders in U.S. funds only for all orders outside U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue. Offer expires January 31, 2003.

A0802R

5784/11-01/4-c

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Lennox Lewis KO 8 Mike Tyson
(Retains World Title)
Evander Holyfield Tech. Win 8 Hasim Rahman
Chris Byrd KO 3 Jeff Pegues
James Toney KO 10 Michael Rush
Michael Grant KO 2 Anthony Willis
Larry Donald W 10 James Stanton
Maurice Harris KO 9 Sergei Liakhovich
Joe Mesi KO 5 Talmadge Griffis
Robert Davis W 10 Terrance Lewis
Jeremy Williams W 10 Ron Guerrero
Andre Purlett KO 5 Joe Lenhart
Friday Ahunanya W 10 Josue Blocus
Timo Hoffman W 12 Ross Puritty
Derek Bryant KO 4 Robert Wiggins
Taurus Sykes W 10 James Walton
George Kandelaki KO 5 Derek McCafferty
Willie Phillips KO 6 Jeremy Bates
DaVarryl Williamson KO 3 Dale Crowe
Samuel Peter KO 2 Terry Porter
Samuel Peter KO 2 Francis Royal
Malik Scott W 8 Dan Ward
Michael Bennett KO 3 Chris Hairston
Calvin Brock KO 2 Don Normand
Audley Harrison W 6 Mark Krence

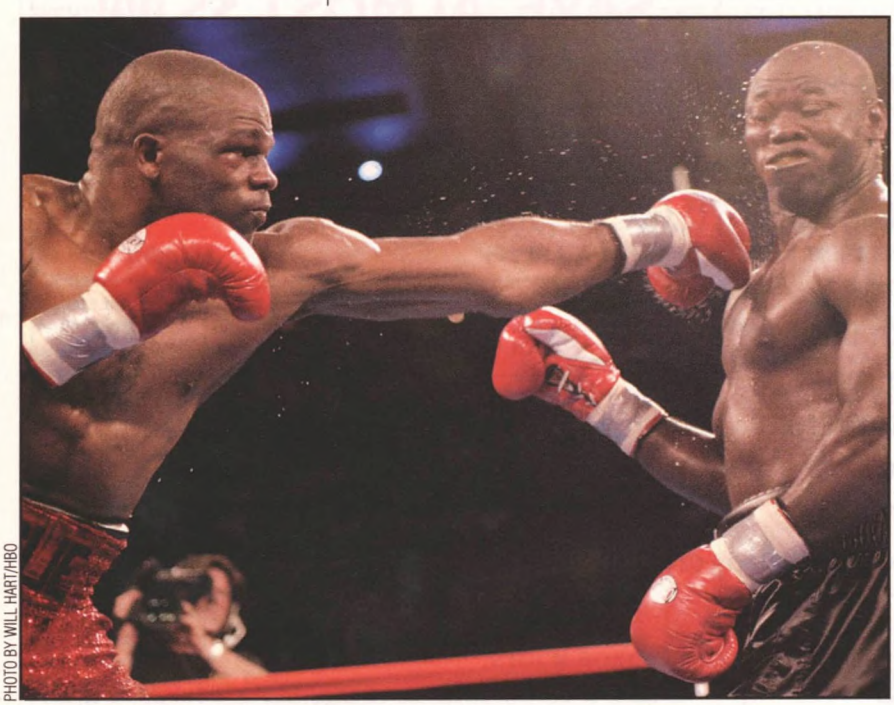


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Heavyweight Josue Blocus jolts Friday Ahunanya with a jab

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Dale Brown KO 5 Yohan Gimenez
Louis Azille KO 1 Carlos Bates
Kelvin Davis KO 7 Tipton Walker
Arthur Williams KO 2 Darryl Hollowell
Johnny Jensen W 6 Jesper Kristiansen
Michael Simms KO 4 Miguel Aguila

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Bruno Girard W 12 Thomas Hansvoll
(Retains WBA Title)
Syd Vanderpool KO 10 Tyrus Armstead
David Starie KO 1 Ron Martinez
Alejandro Lakatus KO 1 Dimitri Gerasimov
Tony Oakey W 12 Neil Simpson
Paul Briggs KO 4 Seiaute Mailata
Madjid Zaim W 10 Julien Chamayou
Kabary Salem W 6 Robert Marsh
Jeff Lacy KO 3 Kevin Hall

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Sven Ottke W 12 Thomas Tate
(Retains IBF Title)
Anthony Mundine KO 6 Darren Obah
Scott Pemberton KO 2 Wendell Hall
Mikkel Kessler KO 7 Javier Acuna
Mehdi Sahnoune KO 3 Thabiso Mogale
Fighting Nordin KO 3 Sebastian Hill
Jose Maria Guerrero D 10 Xavi Moya
Brian Magee KO 7 Mpush Makambi
Anwar Oshana W 6 Larry Kenney
Quinton Smith KO 4 Mack Willis
Laila Ali W 6 Shirvell Williams
Jacqui Frazier-Lyde No-Contest 3 Erin Toughy

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Antonio Perugino W 6 Bendele Ilunga
Michael Lerma W 10 Wilfredo Rivera
Erland Betare KO 4 Alejandro DeLeon
Rodney Jones KO 5 Dwain Williams
Julio Garcia W 12 Kirino Garcia
Ruben Groenewald W 12 Anthony Farnell
Robert Linton KO 3 Earl Jackson
Dirk Dzemski W 12 Kippy Warren
Satoru Suzuki KO 1 Kenji Tamaoki
Eugenio Montero KO 5 Ottavio Barone
Jermain Taylor W 8 Grady Brewer

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Mamadou Thiam KO 4 Felix Vargas
Darrell Woods KO 7 Tony Badea

Mihaly Kotai W 12 William Gare
Emmett Linton KO 3 Gilberto Flores
Sam Garr W 12 Fernandes Dos Santos
Mikael Rask W 12 Sergio Acuna
Steve Martinez KO 5 Fred Ladd
Paolo Roberto KO 3 Gyorgy Bugyk
Alexander Vetoux KO 4 Howard Clarke
Joachim Alcine W 12 Marcos Primera
Peter Manfredo Jr. KO 8 Mike McFail
Guillermo Saputo KO 2 Carlos Alvarez

WELTERWEIGHTS

Thomas Damgaard KO 9 Peter Malinga
Manuel Gomez W 10 Pedro Garcia
Fernando Mena KO 8 Frankie Gonzalez
Hassan Al W 12 Alexis Carrasco
James Hare W 8 Abdul Mehidi
Neil Sinclair KO 1 Derek Roche
Curtis Barker W 8 Jose Aponte
Meldrick Taylor W 8 Dillon Carew
Frankie Randall W 6 Alberto Mercedes
Teruo Nagase W 10 Hiroyuki Maeda
Anthony Thompson W 4 Ruben Munoz

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Oktay Urkal KO 3 Michael Durovic
Ricky Hatton W 12 Eamonn Magee
Souleymane Mbaye W 12 Khalid Rahilou
Hiroyuki Sakamoto KO 3
Nannam Kiatprasanchai
Masakazu Satake KO 8 Hwangyoung Park
Emmanuel Clottey W 10 Hicklet Lau
Lemuel Nelson W 10 Michael Davis
Giuseppe Lauri KO 8 Laszlo Herczeg
Frank Houghtaling KO 12 Lou Bizzaro
Gabriel Ruelas W 6 Lee Cargle
Terrance Cauthen W 6 Jose Aponte
Darryl Tyson W 8 Alexis Perez
Oscar Diaz KO 3 Greg Hill

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Leonard Dorin W 12 Raul Balbi
(Retains WBA Title)
Joel Casamayor KO 8 Juan Arias
Angel Manfredy W 10 Antonio Ramirez
Carlos Hernandez W 10 Mark Burse
Emanuel Augustus D 10 Leavander Johnson
Bobby Vanzie W 8 Viktor Baranov
Mike Anchondo KO 3 Manuel Bocanegra
Adan Hernandez W 6 John Trigg
Isra Girgrah KO 1 Shakurah Witherspoon

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Phillip Ndou KO 6 Claudio Martinet
Lamont Pearson KO 3 Freddy Cruz
Laszlo Bognar KO 1 Patrick Prokopec
Alex Arthur KO 5 Nikolai Eremeev

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Ricky Hatton cracks Eamonn Magee with a left to the body

Kevin Lear KO 8 Michael Gomez
Kennedy McKinney W 6 Joseph Figueroa
Bobby Pacquiao KO 11 Renato Inal

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Scott Harrison KO 6 Victor Santiago
Angel Vazquez W 10 Marcos Licona
Luisito Espinosa KO 2 Ever Beleno
Kozo Ishii KO 1 Samuel Ventura
Spend Abazi W 12 Nikolai Eremeev
Nadel Hussein W 6 Ronnie Longakit
Cyril Thomas Tech. Draw 2
Alessandro DiMeco
Takalani Ndlovu KO 1 Anthony Tshehla
Antonio Diaz W 10 Rogers Mtagwa
Eugenio Gomez KO 2 Veerachai Chuwatana
Setsuo Segawa KO 4 Yunchul Yuh
Rocky Juarez KO 1 Len Martinez

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Manny Pacquiao KO 2 Jorge Eliecer Julio
(Retains IBF Title)
David Donis W 12 Ricardo Medina
Masanori Sugita KO 4 Annis Demuha

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Danny Romero KO 7 Cuauhtemoc Gomez
Roger Gonzalez W 12 Jorge Otero
David Guerault KO 2 Ferenc Kaffka
Noel Wilders KO 3 Sean Grant
Nobuaki Naka Tech. Draw 4
Ryuichi Minoriyama
Seong Kook KO 4 Park Kyung-Chul
Brahim Asloum KO 3 Juan Herrera

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Gerry Penalosa W 12 Oscar Andrade
Randy Mangubat KO 1 Ramie Laput
Jose Angel Beranza KO 4
Antonio Gonzalez
Masaki Kawabata KO 1
Yodpetch Chuwatana

FLYWEIGHTS

Jorge Arce KO 2 Ramon Hurtado
Damaen Kelly W 12 Celso Danggud
Jose Lopez W 10 Alejandro Moreno
Mimoun Chent Tech. Win 8 Jason Booth
Archel Villamor W 12 Jerry Pahayahay
Brian Viloria KO 5 Francisco Soto

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Juanito Rubillar Tech. Draw 3
Joma Gamboa
Ernesto Rubillar KO 1 Flash Villacura
Marvin Tampos KO 7 Deeden Kengkarun

STRAWWEIGHTS

Noel Arambulet W 12 Juan Landaeta
Muhammad Rachman KO 9 Job Tleru
Eagle Okuda W 10 Minsoo Chang

BOXING EQUIPMENT
EVERLAST
EST. 1910
BRONX, NEW YORK

PRESENTS

The RING

FIGHTER of the MONTH

It's easy in hindsight to say that what Lennox Lewis did to Mike Tyson wasn't all that impressive, that he was just doing what was expected against a challenger who was already washed-up five years ago. By the middle of the second round, Tyson didn't look like he belonged anywhere near a heavyweight title fight, the moves that once made him a sensation having completely left him. But didn't Lewis' power, presence, and punch selection have something to do with that? And weren't a lot of people—fans and experts alike—picking Tyson to knock Lewis out early?

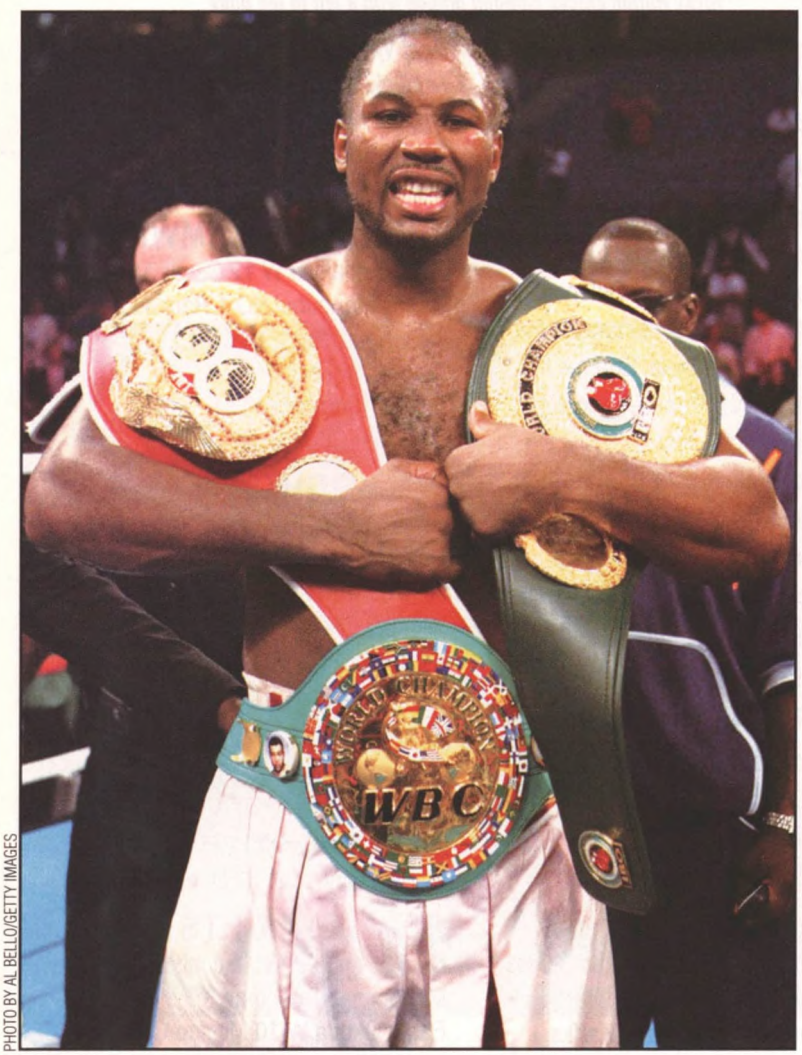


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

According to those people, the style matchup promised disaster for Lewis. They couldn't have been more wrong. Lewis negated Tyson's advantages, jabbed him silly, and destroyed him with right-hand bombs. He gave Tyson the worst beating of his career, plain and simple, pulverizing him to the point where even those who tuned in hoping to see Iron Mike in pain had to feel sorry for him.

Whether it's right or not, this is the fight for which Lewis will be remembered by the general public. That being the case, he will be remembered well. Lewis is unquestionably the dominant heavyweight in the world right now, and he rightly cemented his status as an all-time great with his performance against Tyson.

• • • •

Lennox Lewis

RINGSIDE REPORTS

Tszyu tames Tackie with the jab

Kostya Tszyu W 12 Ben Tackie

Las Vegas, Nevada: The 140-pound division is known for its depth of talent. But Tszyu made it look like a one-man show with his performance against Tackie.

Six months after stopping Zab Judah in the second round, Tszyu gave another masterful performance when he thoroughly outboxed Tackie for 12 rounds in his first defense of the undisputed title. Tszyu pitched a 120-108 shutout on the cards of judges Chuck Giampa (USA) and Bill Graham (USA), while Duane Ford (USA) scored it 119-109, the same as THE RING.

There was never any doubt. Tszyu, 140, Australia via Russia, didn't resort to the big powershots that got him the spectacular win over Judah, but that was largely because he didn't need to. He thumped Tackie, 139½, Ghana, with solid jabs round after round, mixing in the occasional right hand. Tackie, to his credit, kept moving forward, but he mounted no attack and only landed a handful of punches even remotely significant.

Tszyu, 32, said the all-around nature of the fight made it one of his best. No one was arguing.

"I was pleased with my performance," said Tszyu, who earned $1-million while raising his record to 29-1-1 (23). "I fought very well."

He was expected to be pressed by Tackie, who had shown a stout chin and a warrior's heart in previous bouts. But Tackie, 28, simply moved forward without throwing, while taking a pounding from a more tactical than usual Tszyu. Tackie was frustrated by his own performance, but heaped praise upon the champion.

"I should have fought a smarter fight," Tackie, 24-3 (15), said. "I waited too long to make my move. I was not pleased with my performance. I wanted to be more aggressive and pressure him. Kostya did everything so well. He is the best."

Tszyu was clearly the best man in the ring on this night. He never rushed and, even after he was headbutted or roughed up by Tackie, maintained his poise and stuck to his plan. He didn't shift into a higher gear—mainly because he didn't have to—and the result was a predictably easy win.

"Tackie is a tough, strong guy with a lot of heart," Tszyu said. "The key to this fight for me was patience. I knew I had to be patient. My middle name should be patience."

Tszyu was patient enough to stick with the jab and not worry about trying for something to wake up the fans at the far-from-crowded Mandalay Bay Events Center. It was hardly a sizzler, but it was a thorough and absolute victory.

"Did you see how high he kept his hands the whole time?" Tszyu asked, bringing his arms up alongside his face to mimic Tackie's stance. "Well, the most direct target at that point is straight down the middle. So, that's what I did."

The referee was Jay Nady (USA).

Promoter: Millennium Events

Television: Showtime

(5-18-02)

Kevin Iole

Leonard Dorin W 12 Raul Balbi

Bucharest, Romania: As with many rematches, this failed to live up to the original. Dorin, 135, Canada via Romania, was always on top against the man from whom he took the title, Balbi, 135, Argentina, and the 31-year-old retained the WBA lightweight title before 10,000 of his jubilant compatriots at the Polivalenta Hall.

Back in January in San Antonio, Texas, the two fighters produced a stirring shootout that was won controversially by Dorin, but Balbi was almost gun-shy for the return bout. He never got going, and once in charge, Dorin did not look like he would lose the initiative. Having left his native land and moved to Canada to realize his dream of becoming a champion, Dorin, 21-0 (7), was in no mood to surrender his belt on home soil in his first defense.

The 28-year-old Balbi, 49-6-1 (33), was slow, even lethargic, and from the first bell he was fielding ripping combinations and firing precious little of genuine note in return. Dorin's straight right hands connected repeatedly, and hometown advantage allowed him to get away with plenty of holding and hitting and even punching low.

In the eighth round, the South American connected solidly to Dorin's chin with a right, but the titleholder came back to finish the round strongly and, in the following rounds, seized the upper hand once more. A bronze medalist at the 1992 and 1996 Olympics and world amateur lightweight champion in 1995, Dorin has the pedigree and self-belief to test IBF titleholder Paul Spadafora and former WBC titlist Jose Luis Castillo.

The judges' decision was a formality. Mikael Hook (Sweden) saw it 118-111, Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa) had it 118-110, and Medardo Villalobos (Panama) scored it 117-112, all for Dorin. The only sour note for Dorin was that ESPN2's *Friday Night Fights*, which was to broadcast the bout, showed a different bout in its place when Dorin breached an agreement with the cable network by wearing a temporary tattoo ad for an online casino on his back.

The referee was John Coyle (England).

Promoter: Interbox

(5-31-02)

Brian Doogan

PHOTO BY STEVE MATTEO/HBO

Bailey and Hurtado open fire

Diobelys Hurtado KO 7 Randall Bailey

San Juan, Puerto Rico: It rarely happens that a fighter, especially one who has just been hurt, has the wits and courage to do exactly what his trainer tells him to in the next round. But Hurtado did just that, and it made him the surprise winner in a fight that appeared to be slipping away at Roberto Clemente Stadium on the undercard of Felix Trinidad-Hassine Cherifi.

"When he got hurt I told him, 'Listen, Hurtado, I don't think we're ahead," said trainer Felix Pintor, who has been working with the Miami, Florida-based Cuban for the past four fights. "'I want you to prove to these people who you are. So you have to go over there and fight with this guy. Get on top of him and get him out of there.'"

The 29-year-old Hurtado, who had risen from a right-hand bomb over the ear from the hard-cracking Bailey, 25-2 (25), in the sixth round, ran out of his corner in the seventh and swarmed him with a bevy of bodyshots. A combination rocked Bailey, who was desperately trying to stay close and ride it out. Hurtado, however, never stopped punching, and a perfectly placed right-hand dig dropped Bailey, 27, to a knee. He was counted out by referee Luis Pabon (Puerto Rico) at 2:02 of the seventh, while holding a lead on all three scorecards.

Though the junior welterweight champion is Kostya Tszyu, who stopped Hurtado in five rounds in 1998, Hurtado was awarded the WBA's "interim" title, which effectively makes him a mandatory.

"I was very fortunate I got a second wind," said Hurtado. "When I went to the corner after being knocked down, they said hit this guy and get him out here. So I came out aggressive."

Bailey, 139½, Miami, won the first round on sheer aggression, raking Hurtado, 140, and dictating the pace, but the Cuban was more economical and measured in his output, picking his spots and potshotting. When a crouched Bailey went hard to his body with a right hand, Hurtado, 35-2-1 (22), jolted him with a short right hand to the top of the head to score a knockdown in the second.

Bailey was undeterred and kept pressing the action and appeared to have found a rhythm, though he'd yet to land cleanly with his vaunted right hand. When he finally did in the sixth, Hurtado had a delayed reaction before short-circuiting and falling to a knee. Bailey failed to finish him, though, and was soon finished himself as a result.

Television: HBO

Promoter: Don King Productions

(5-11-02)

Johnnie Whitehead

Sven Ottke W 12 Thomas Tate

Nuremburg, Germany: The question of who exactly is the world's best super middleweight is not likely to be settled unequivocally anytime soon. Ottke and Joe Calzaghe are clearly the top two, but all efforts to get the two together have drawn a blank.

"It's a fight I'd love to make, and I'm sure Joe would win," said Calzaghe's promoter, Frank Warren. "But Ottke and his people just don't want the fight."

Calzaghe's comprehensive victory in April over Charles Brewer, who was involved in two close fights with Ottke, cemented the Welshman in most people's top spot. But Ottke, 168, Germany, has made an argument for himself by continuing to hold on to the IBF title, most recently winning a clear-cut decision victory over Tate, 168, Houston, Texas, against whom he struggled before gaining a technical decision in 11 rounds in 1999. It was the German's 14th defense of the belt he won from Brewer in October 1998, and he is now by far Germany's most successful ever major titleholder.

The knock against Ottke is his inability or unwillingness to knock people out. He did stop Anthony Mundine last December, but that was only his fifth stoppage in 25 fights. The dynamite in his fists has an inordinately long fuse. Against Tate, 41-7 (28), he didn't need it. Once again, his boxing skills proved utterly dominant, and Tate, unlike in their previous meeting, just had no answers.

"I did exactly what I wanted to do and put on a thorough boxing display," said Ottke, who turned 35 two days after the fight. "There was no stage in the fight where I felt I wasn't in control."

Indeed, he rarely got hit all night, the 36-year-old Tate's performance of three years previous against the German but a distant memory. Ottke, 27-0 (5), dictated affairs with a solid jab and sharp combination punches, creating a bad swelling under Tate's left eye and even registering a knockdown in the second round with a sharp left followed by a right, although the American mandatory challenger appeared actually to have lost his footing.

Irrespective, the decision was unanimous, with judges Frank Cairo (USA), Arthur Ellensohn (Germany), and Luca Montella (Italy) scoring 119-108, 118-109, and 116-111, all in Ottke's favor.

The referee was Randy Neumann (USA).

Promoter: Wilfred Sauerland

(6-1-02)

Brian Doogan

PHOTO BY SUSUMO YAMADA

Larios earns title shot by stopping Vazquez in the 12th

Oscar Larios KO 12 Israel Vazquez

Sacramento, California: Larios ensured himself a second shot at WBC super bantamweight titleholder Willie Jorrin by stopping Vazquez in the final round of a rousing punchout. Originally, Jorrin was supposed to defend against Vazquez, the WBC's number-one contender going into the bout. But when Jorrin pulled out with an ankle injury, Larios gladly accepted the assignment, even though Vazquez had iced him in one round back in 1997.

Larios, who lost a controversial decision to Jorrin in January '01, has obviously improved a great deal since his first encounter with Vazquez. He made good use of his agility and height advantage to catch the ever-pressing Vazquez from long range, and when he was forced to stand and trade, the man from Guadalajara generally came up with the bigger punches.

Vazquez, Mexico City, ate a lot of jabs and a fair number of hurtful combinations trying to work his way inside. He succeeded in planting a series of rights to the body and also landed an occasional clean shot to the head, but always paid the price for his aggression.

Although the pace was brisk throughout, it became even more heated the second half of the fight. Vazquez' relentless pressure began to tell, and Larios, bleeding from a cut on his left eye and looking a bit unsteady on his spindly legs, turned southpaw in the seventh in an attempt to buy time.

There were a number of hectic give-and-take exchanges in the ninth, 10th, and 11th, but Larios usually got the better of them. Even so, it was exciting stuff, as Vazquez never stopped trying to turn the fight his way.

Instead of coasting to a decision, Larios closed the show with a bang in the 12th. He hurt Vazquez with a left and followed up with a barrage, punctuated by a right hand that put his adversary on his back. Vazquez, 32-3 (24), bravely stumbled back to his feet, but was soon floored again by another right, at which point referee Pat Russell stopped the fight with just 63 seconds remaining.

The victory earned Larios, 44-3-1 (33), recognition as the WBC's interim 122-pound titlist, which is bad news for Jorrin, who has to fight him or be stripped.

Television: ESPN2

Promoter: Don Chargin

(5-17-02)

Osamu Sato KO 8 Yoddamrong Sithyodthong

Saitama, Japan: Game and gutsy Japanese Sato, 121¼, impressively captured the WBA super bantam belt as he dropped previously unbeaten titlist Yoddamrong, 122, twice in the seventh and flattened him at 1:58 of the eighth round at Saitama Super Arena.

It was a come-from-behind kayo, as the Thai was leading on points by utilizing his superior boxing skills. Yoddamrong, who captured the WBA throne by outclassing Venezuelan southpaw Yober Ortega in February in his previous fight, proved fast and ringwise, whipping the tight-guarded Japanese to pile up points steadily in the second through sixth.

Sato had failed to win the WBC crown on a majority draw with Willie Jorrin in Tokyo last February, surviving a couple of visits to the deck in the third and sweeping nearly all the rounds thereafter only to come away even on two cards. The muscular Japanese made up for his misfortune this time. He surprisingly caught Yoddamrong in the seventh, putting him on all fours with an overhand right to the face. Sato followed up to down him again, with the bell coming to the defending titlist's rescue. It was a 10-7 round, as tallied by all the officials, allowing Sato, four years his opponent's senior at 25, to almost overcome his deficit on points.

But the scores didn't end up mattering. Yoddamrong, 27-1-1 (12), desperately came forward in the eighth to regain control, but the Japanese challenger retaliated with bodyshots. Sato, 26-1-2 (15), dug a very heavy blow to the side of the belly and sank Yoddamrong to the canvas. Referee Guillermo Perez Pineda (Panama) tolled the 10-count and raised the new titleholder's hand.

Promoter: Keiichiro Kanehira's Kyoei Promotions

(5-18-02)

Joe Koizumi

Naseem Hamed W 12 Manuel Calvo

London, England: This was not the imperious return to ring action the self-styled "Fresh Prince" had hoped for. Over a year after being humbled by Marco Antonio Barrera, Hamed, 126, England, clearly outpointed former European featherweight titleholder Calvo, 125½, Spain, but looked nothing like the fighter he once was nor a fighter with serious prospects of reversing the score against Barrera. The 10,000-strong crowd at London Arena booed loudly from the fifth round on, and many left well before the scores (120-110 from British judge Roy Francis, and 119-

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/GETTY IMAGES

Hamed launches a right hand at Calvo

109 from American judges John Rupert and Rocky Young) were announced.

His hands, Naz claimed, had been a problem. A left hook that cracked off Calvo's cheek in the second round—"an absolute peach of a punch," Hamed said—immediately sent painful shockwaves through the hand that delivered it. He thought instantly that it might be broken. Subsequent examination proved otherwise, and in the end it seemed a poor excuse for his sorry display.

Damaged hands are an occupational hazard for any fighter, but 28-year-old Hamed's real problem lies in his head. Barrera inflicted a methodical beating from which Hamed may never recover psychologically. The 34-year-old Calvo, 33-5-1 (14), was a notch below the level of opposition he has encountered for some time, but the former king of the world's featherweights never threatened to stop him and, as the rounds progressed, his attack was reduced to mere probing with single shots.

That said, he was never in any danger, his most trying moments confined to the fifth, sixth, and seventh rounds. The left hand worked well for the Spaniard in round five, and he caught Hamed with a good right in round six. Another right in the seventh preceded a fall to the floor by Hamed that referee John Coyle (England) correctly ruled a slip. Before this mid-fight slump, Hamed had boxed reasonably well, looking particularly sharp in the second and third rounds. But a left and right that caught him in the fourth seemed to sow the doubt in his mind.

From the eighth round onward, the fight degenerated completely as a spectacle, the crowd's annoyance with Hamed's display stirring no positive response. In fact, he told his trainer, Oscar Suarez, he didn't care what the crowd thought.

"I thought my performance was fantastic, a real display of artistry and ring craft," Hamed, 36-1 (31), said. "I want to be back in the gym and running on the roads and fighting again inside three months. I want to be the best featherweight in the world and I will come back and give Barrera a severe beating."

First, however, could be Johnny Tapia in the United States in September for the IBF featherweight title. A more positive approach will be vital.

Promoters: Ringside, Matchroom
(5-18-02)
Brian Doogan

Bruno Girard W 12 Thomas Hansvoll

Levallois, France: The first couple of rounds suggested a highly uncomfortable night, but gradually Girard, 174½, France, turned things his way against game challenger Hansvoll, 174, Norway, to make his first defense of the WBA light heavyweight belt at the Palais des Sports. Roy Jones is the WBA's "super champ" and the undisputed king in the light heavyweight division.

That Girard is merely profiting from a nonsense position adopted by the WBA is indisputable. The creation of "super champ" status for unified titleholders is just one more way for the sanctioning body to make more money from sanctioning fees. But Girard, a former titlist at super middleweight, is not to blame, and he showed class and confidence to recover from the unsettling start he suffered against a challenger who recorded big wins in the past year against Ole Klemetsen (KO 2) and Herve Decloedt (KO 3) to earn this title chance.

In the first couple of rounds, Hansvoll, 22-3-1 (6), looked like he might spring an upset. He caught Girard, 41-2-2 (7), with several hard shots, and the Frenchman failed to gain a foothold before the third round. Then he began to impose himself on his 27-year-old challenger and picked him off with good, solid shots to the body and uppercuts and hooks to the head, putting out of his mind the controversy that surrounded the bout in the days leading up to it.

Former WBA light heavyweight beltholder Lou Del Valle and his management team secured a court order stating that the WBA could not sanction the fight. The New Yorker was forced to withdraw from a December 22 rematch with Girard after they recorded a draw in their encounter last August. Girard then stopped Robert Koon and, instead of facing Del Valle next, he met Hansvoll.

If the controversy was still on his mind, Girard, 31, did a good job of suggesting otherwise with his patient, professional performance. Judges Paul Thomas (England) and Jose I. Martinez (Spain) scored the bout 116-112 in his favor, while Arturo Sanchez (Panama) made it slightly closer at 116-114.

The referee was Stanley Christdoulou (South Africa).
Promoter: AB Stars Production
(5-23-02)
Brian Doogan

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Explosive Pacquiao becomes the first to stop Julio

Manny Pacquiao KO 2 Jorge Eliecer Julio

Memphis, Tennessee: What a pity Pacquiao isn't a heavyweight, because if he was, Lennox Lewis wouldn't have to worry about finding an opponent capable of creating another pay-per-view bonanza. The tiny Filipino dynamo is every bit as explosive as Mike Tyson was in his prime, and a lefthander to boot.

But as "Pac-Man" is only 122 pounds (actually 120½ for this bout), that's never going to happen. Still, his diminutive size didn't stop the IBF junior featherweight titleholder from making the best of his appearance on the Lewis-Tyson card at The Pyramid, where he blasted out former WBA bantam beltholder Julio in one of the two preliminary bouts shown on PPV.

After a relatively tame opener, Pacquiao, 24, threw his lethal attack into top gear, tearing into Julio with the kind of two-fisted assault he employed to take the belt from the highly regarded Lehlo Ledwaba in June 2001. A straight left floored Julio, and as soon as referee Bill Clancy (USA) had given him the eight-count and dusted off his gloves, Pacquiao was back in his challenger's face, winging bombs at a furious rate.

Almost immediately, another vicious left decked Julio again. The fight probably could have been stopped there and then, but Clancy gave Julio, 122, another chance to get himself together. It made no difference; Pacquiao tore in again and jolted Julio back with another left, prompting Clancy to step in and rescue the dazed Colombian at the 1:09 mark.

"I want to unify the belts and then go to 126 pounds," said Pacquiao, 34-2-1 (25), who was given a hero's welcome when he arrived back in the Philippines a few days later.

For the 33-year-old Julio, 44-4 (32), the end seems near. It was obviously he was slipping in decision losses to Johnny Tapia and Adan Vargas, but he'd never been stopped before, and really took a hammering during the brief time he shared the ring with Pacquiao.

Television: HBO/Showtime Pay-Per-View

Promoters: Lion Promotions, Main Events, Fight Night Inc., Prize Fight Promotions, LLC Presents

(6-8-02)

Nigel Collins ■

MIKE TYSON
First EVER Authenticated Signing

100% Guaranteed Authentic
Autographed 16x20 Photos and Gloves
CALL TODAY

A&R Collectibles EXCLUSIVE
Ali vs Liston Photograph With An Authentic Piece of Ali Worn Robe

(Actual Size)

The most famous photograph in sports History framed with an Actual piece of a fight robe worn by "The Greatest" Muhammad Ali.

A World-Wide Limited Edition of ONLY 200
Retail $160.00
Special Offer ONLY $129.95
CALL TODAY Toll-Free: 888-667-7767

A&R Collectibles - Toll-Free:888-667-7767 - www.arcollectibles.com

New Face

(Continued from page 24)

saw the finer things his pals were wearing or driving, and he was tempted to step into that fast way of life to get what they had.

But somebody was always there to pull him away. The disappointment of his parents was an important deterrent, as was the presence of Ruckman, a practitioner of the street hustle and keen observer of Dawson's talent.

"I was just hanging out and doing nothing," Dawson admitted. "I still wanted to box, and I thought I could make a little money boxing. The thing that changed me is when I dropped out of school, I had people stay on me. Billy Ray and my parents all stayed on me about getting back to school. I never returned to school, but returned to the gym more full time. I'll get my GED in June, and boxing is my main priority. I see it taking me places now."

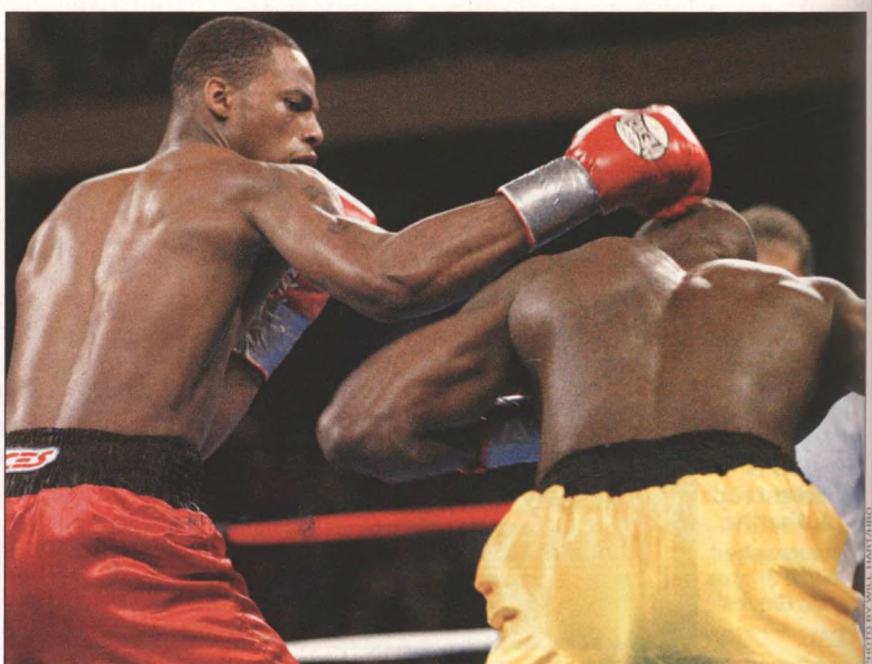
Dawson started boxing when he was 10, following his father, Rick, who fought as an "opponent" during his pro career, and older brothers Dominic and Rick Jr. and younger brother Germaine. The brothers would roughhouse in the backyard, and eventually troop along with their dad to the Ring One Boxing Gym in New Haven.

The four would conduct little tournaments, with age holding precedence. Dominic always won, followed by Rick Jr., Chad, and Germaine. Chad would purposely leave his mouthpiece at home on occasion so he wouldn't have to box. "I don't do that anymore; but the beatings were that bad," Chad recalled. "I was little then, so a bloody nose and busted lip were like the end of the world."

Dawson still carries a lasting image of the time: a yellowed newspaper clip from the front page of *The New Haven Register* sports section, showing a picture of a bloodied Chad and Rick Jr. after a spirited sparring session.

By his middle teens, basketball took hold of Dawson. The sinewy youngster was a varsity hoops player for Hyde-Leadership High in New Haven his sophomore and junior years, when Hyde-Leadership reached the Class S (small school) Connecticut state finals. But soon basketball gave way to something else after Dawson lost his desire to go to school. Dawson stopped attending class and began to see what some friends drove and what they wore despite a lack of any discernable income.

One of those friends was Ruckman, a man in his early-30s who looked after Dawson like a younger brother. He'd take Dawson places he'd never imagined, showed him what money could do—regardless of the source of income.



Dawson made easy work of Grant on the Ward-Gatti undercard

However, Ruckman went to jail for dealing drugs in December 2001. The presence of Ruckman in Dawson's life was a point of contention in the Dawson home. Dawson's parents knew what Ruckman was about, and were not about to let their son fall into any traps.

But Ruckman wasn't about to let that happen, either.

"I seriously thought about the business, but Billy would never let me do it," Chad recalled. "Billy told the drug dealers in the area that if anyone ever saw me dealing drugs, he'd beat my ass, then he'd beat their ass. He warned people about me. Billy wasn't a bad guy; actually, he was a good guy. He saw my talent, maybe even before I did. He just made bad choices. I saw those choices up close. I wasn't a part of them, but I saw what they could do.

"I learned a lot from Billy, because he always told me I had other choices in my life. He saw where I was going in my life. Billy used to work out with me, and he'd stay with me. My mother and father thought I was selling drugs, because of the people I was around, because of people like Billy. There was a lot of friction in the house. It wasn't an easy time for me. But boxing was still there."

Yet if Dawson had any plans on continuing to box, he first had to make a compromise with his parents and new trainer Gaspar Ortega, a welterweight contender in the 1950s and '60s.

"Since I've been with Gaspar, he and my parents told me I'd have to go back to school, or they wouldn't train me," said Dawson. "I just thought school was a waste of time. I would just go when I felt like it, then I left. I did what I wanted to do. I see now what everyone was saying. I'm glad for my parents and Gaspar for staying on me."

Ortega has had a powerful impact on Dawson since taking over for Brian Clark, Dawson's previous trainer, three weeks before Dawson's first-round knockout of Gary Grant on the undercard of the epic Micky Ward-Arturo Gatti battle on May 18. The undercard featured a group of interesting prospects, like heavyweight Dominick Guinn and junior welterweights Fred Cadena and Andre Eason. It was Dawson, however, that looked the most impressive of all of them. Ortega envisions a very bright future for his charge.

"I like Chad's ability," said the 66-year-old Ortega, who posted a 138-39-3 (69) pro record, once going 12 rounds with world welterweight champ Emile Griffith before getting knocked out. "This kid was born to be a fighter. He's learned very fast, and the big thing that's helped me is that he's asked questions. He's willing to learn and to do the right thing. I definitely think that the kid could be a world champion, but I'd say I'd have to give him another year or so.

"The kid showed me a lot of potential and ability. Chad is a lefthander, but if he was right-handed, he'd remind me of Sugar Ray Robinson. This kid is not mature yet. He's only fighting four or six rounds right now. I'm not saying he's going to be Sugar Ray Robinson, because there was only one, but the kid has the potential to be Sugar Ray Robinson, maybe when he becomes a 10-round fighter. He needs a lot of work. I want to see him throw punches in the correct way. I was a good fighter during my time as a pro, but I didn't know my mistakes. I help Chad to see his mistakes and correct them. I'd like to see Chad improve his defense."

Ortega wants to gradually move Dawson along. The former contender would like to see how Dawson reacts to better fighters and how he reacts under pressure. But overall, Ortega has been pleased with Dawson.

"Chad's coming to the ring and bing, bang, boom, that's it," Ortega said. "I want to get a chance to really see what we need to work, because all of the corrections are coming in sparring sessions. I want to see Chad get more tested, so he'll be prepared for anything.

"He still needs to learn something about commitment, but he's also young. He's dedicated, but I keep telling him he has to do the right things. There is a lot of little kid in him, but what I like about him is that he's a humble kid who doesn't talk too much."

Dawson doesn't need to. His actions—inside and outside the ring—have been speaking volumes. And Dawson knows, because the only stares he gets now from his mother usually accompany a smile at ringside. ■

"BOXING TECHNIQUES AND MOVES RARELY TAUGHT THAT WILL IMPROVE YOUR FIGHTING".

THE HOOKS OF ROBINSON, MARCIANO, FRAZIER AND HAGLER • HIDDEN ABILITIES OF WILLY PEP AND ALI • L/R HOOKS FROM "IMPOSSIBLE" ANGLES AND DISTANCES • RIPPING L. UPPERCUTS • UNCOMMON RIGHTS/JABS • FEINTS • SIDE-STEPPING • CIRCLING RIGHT • RETREAT-COUNTER • TOE-TO-TOE ROLL PUNCHING • DIVERSE (UNEXPECTED) SWITCH-HITTING FOOTWORK • COMBINATIONS IN MOTION (FAST RHYTHM, ALL DIRECTIONS) • BOUNCE-PUNCHING OFF THE ROPES • SURVIVAL AND CRAFTY MOVES (INCLUDING SOLUTIONS TO 100 YEAR OLD TRICKS) ARE TAUGHT BY "JESSE" RODRIGUEZ. 5 MAJOR TECHNIQUES WILL HELP YOU CREATE MORE PUNCHING ANGLES AND NEW STRATEGIES. FOR 3 VHS VIDEOS (14 HOURS) SEND $65.00 M.O. ($99.00 FOREIGN) PAYABLE TO:
"JESUS" RODRIGUEZ 5701-D BELLAIRE #93, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77081 USA

No other trainer in the world can show you even a fifth of the things shown on my series, guaranteed. J.R.

www.boxingimprovement.20m.com

THE RING BOXING ALMANAC

Limited quantities of the 1996, 1997, 2001, and 2002 *Ring Boxing Almanacs* are still available. Send a check or money order for $7 each (postage included) to: London Publishing Co., P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

Please check issue(s) desired; I have enclosed $7 each as payment in full:

☐ 1996 Ring Boxing Almanac
☐ 1997 Ring Boxing Almanac
☐ 2001 Ring Boxing Almanac
☐ 2002 Ring Boxing Almanac

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ APT. _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

In all countries outside the U.S., please add $3 for every issue to be sent airmail or $1.50 for every issue to be sent surface mail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

5914/03-02

BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO Magazine,* the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

June 1983: WBA Jr. Middleweight Champion Davey Moore: Bracing For Duran's Last Stand. Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Pinklon Thomas. Also: Duran-Cuevas, Hagler-Sibson.

Aug. 1983: Michael Spinks: King Of The Light Heavyweights ... But The Glory Can't Erase The Sadness. Color Pinup: Johnny Bumphus. Interview: Jones & Rappaport. Also: Jones-McCrory, Pryor-Arguello II preview, world's best fighter poll, Jeff Chandler, Mark Breland, Leon Spinks.

Oct. 1983: Is Larry Holmes Finished? Color Pinup: Greg Page. Interview: Marvis Frazier. Also: Marvin Hagler, Bobby Chacon, Jack Dempsey.

July 1984: Donald Curry: "I'm Better Under Pressure." Color Pinup: Gerrie Coetzee. Interview: Curry. Also: Pipino Cuevas, John Mugabi, Bill Costello, M, Spinks-Davis.

Aug. 1984: WBC Heavyweight Champion Terrible Tim Witherspoon: A Superstar Of Tomorrow? Color Pinup: Rocky Lockridge. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Marvin Hagler, Gomez-LaPorte.

Oct. 1984: Golden Boy Mark Breland: Can He Be The Next Sugar Ray? Color Pinup: Jaime Garza. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Bramble-Mancini, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Nov. 1984: Thomas Hearns: "Hagler Is Shakin' Like A Leaf On A Tree!" Color Pinup: Tim Witherspoon. Interview: Livingstone Bramble. Also: Rosario-Davis, Marlon Starling.

Jan. 1985: The Wide-Open Heavyweight Division: Who Will Take Control? Color Pinup: Bill Costello. Interview: Tyrone Crawley. Also: Harry Arroyo, Curry-Pryor, Barry McGuigan.

Feb. 1985: Gerry Cooney: How Far Can He Go This Time? Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Ray Mancini. Also: Dream fights, Hector Camacho.

March 1985: Next For Marvelous Marvin Hagler: The Only Fight That Really Matters. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza, Holmes-Bonecrusher.

May 1985: Thomas Hearns: KO Fighter Of The Year. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Also: Camacho-Ramirez, Truth Williams, Year In Review.

July 1985: Aaron Pryor: Has Hawk Time Run Out? Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Interview: Greg Page. Also: Ray Mancini, James Shuler, Costello-Hatcher.

Aug. 1985: King Cobra: "Hagler-Hearns Is Done And I'm Better Than Both Of Them!" Color Pinup: John Mugabi. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Larry Holmes, Roberto Duran, DeWitt-Lee.

Dec. 1985: Pinklon Thomas: "Larry Holmes Betrayed Boxing." Color Pinup: Hagler-Mugabi. Also: Mike McCallum, Tyrell Biggs, Camacho-Ramirez.

Jan. 1986: Macho Mania! Hector Camacho Takes Aim At 10 Tough Targets. Color Pinup: Jimmy Paul. Interview: Alexis Arguello. Also: Truth Williams, Curry-McCrory.

July 1986: Tyson, McGuigan, Hagler: The Stars Catch Fire And Boxing Is Hot Again! Color Pinup: Azumah Nelson. Also: Camacho-Chavez.

Oct. 1986: They're Back!!! The Cooney Circus Returns. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Jimmy Paul, Mike Tyson, Donald Curry.

Dec. 1986: Larry Holmes' Message To Mike Tyson: "Show Me You Can Kick My Butt!" Color pinup: Mark Breland. Interview: Holmes. Also: Witherspoon-Bruno, Evander Holyfield, Cruz-McGuigan, Danny Lopez.

Feb. 1987: Upset Of The Decade: Has Honeyghan Cut Short The Curry Era? Color Pinup: Marvin Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Edwin Rosario, Hector Camacho.

Aug. 1987: Sweet Victory! Sugar Ray Humbles Hagler. Color Pinup: Leonard vs. Hagler. Interview: Evander Holyfield. Also: Spinks-Cooney preview, Donald Curry.

Oct. 1987: Greatness Beckons: When Will Mike Tyson Answer The Call? Color Pinup: Michael Olajide. Interview: Tyrell Biggs. Also: Paz-Haugen, Marvin Hagler.

Nov. 1987: Michael Spinks: The War With Tyson Is Okay With Him. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Frankie Duarte. Also: Matthew Hilton, Hagler-Czyz.

Dec. 1987: Mike Tyson: Undisputed Heavyweight King-But Is He Losing His Loyal Subjects? Color Pinup: Matthew Hilton. Interview: Barry McGuigan. Also: Aaron Pryor, Mike McCallum.

Jan. 1988: The Collapse Of A Hero: Why Breland Never Hit The Mark Of Greatness. Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Interview: Aaron Pryor. Also: Michael Nunn, Alexis Arguello, lightweights.

Feb. 1988: Pazienza & Haugen Go For Each Other's Throats. Color Pinup: Marlon Starling. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Tate-Olajide, ESPN Boxing.

May 1988: KO Exclusive-Mike Tyson, As Only Mike Tyson Knows Him. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Interview: Thomas Hearns. Also: Tyson-Spinks Poll, Michael Dokes, Virgil Hill.

July 1988: Superfight History Dictates: Don't Expect The Expected From Tyson-Spinks. Color Pinup: Roger Mayweather. Interview: Dr. Ferdie Pacheco. Also: Roberto Duran, Azumah Nelson, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Tyson-Spinks: KO's Fearless Forecast Of Superfight '88. Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Matthew Hilton. Also: Lockridge-Knight, Evander Holyfield, Lloyd Honeyghan.

Sept. 1988: Tyson-Spinks, The Aftermath—What If Tyson Wins; What If Spinks Wins? Color Pinup: Frank Tate. Interview: Marlon Starling. Also: Barry McGuigan, Simon Brown, risk-taking.

Oct. 1988: Middleweight Terrorism: Iran Bombs The Hit Man. Color Pinup: Don Lalonde. Interview: Frank Bruno. Also: Roger Mayweather, Marvin Hagler.

Jan. 1989: The Troubled Times Of Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Lloyd Honeyghan. Interview: Gil Clancy. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Jeff Fenech, Boxing's Champs.

Feb. 1989: George Foreman Is Born Again. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Bill Cayton. Also: The Olympics, Davey Hilton, John Mugabi, Barry McGuigan.

Aug. 1989: Special 100th Issue. Color Pinup: Hagler vs. Hearns. Also: The *KO* Years, 50 most influential people, '80s ratings, best of *KO* Interview, year-by-year review, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Sept. 1989: "I Beat Up Tyson Before, I'll Do It Again," by Carl Williams. Color Pinup: Michael Nunn. Also: Chavez-Mayweather, Brian Mitchell, Marv Albert.

Nov. 1989: The Real Duran; The Stories Behind The Legend. Color Pinup: Orlando Canizales. Interview: Mike Trainer. Also: Edwin Rosario, Rosi-Van Horn.

Feb. 1990: George Foreman Risks A Multi-million-Dollar Shot At Tyson. Color Pinup: Brian Mitchell. Interview: Riddick Bowe. Also: Simon Brown, Molina-Lopez, East vs. West.

May 1990: Chavez vs. Taylor: The Best Matchup In The Last Five Years. Color Pinup: Daniel Zaragoza. Interview: Pernell Whitaker. Also: Leonard-Hearns, Glenn McCrory, Prince Charles Williams.

June 1990: A Sugar-Free Future? Thomas Hearns Is Looking Up. Color Pinup: Glenn McCrory. Interview: Michael Moorer. Also: Matthew Hilton, Molina-Suarez, Foreman-Cooney, Camacho-Paz.

July 1990: KO Interview-Sugar Ray Leonard. Color Pinup: Jorge Paez. Also: Michael Nunn, Buster Douglas, Jibaro Perez, the Olympians.

Aug. 1990: Meldrick Taylor: Brilliance In Defeat. Color Pinup: Buster Douglas. Interview: Teddy Atlas. Also: Buddy McGirt, Dokes-Ruddock, Simon Brown.

Sept. 1990: KO Interview-Buster Douglas. Color Pinup: Macho Camacho. Also: Thomas Hearns, Nigel Benn, Greg Haugen, Boxing Hall of Fame.

Oct. 1990: Send In The Clown: Is Jorge Paez A Phenom Or A Fraud? Color Pinup: Paul Banke. Interview: Tony Lopez. Also: Chavez-Taylor II, Jesse Benavides.

Nov. 1990: The Comeback Of Mike Tyson: A Crooked Course Straight To The Top. Color Pinup: Tony Lopez. Interview: Don Dunphy. Also: Davis-Breland, Riddick Bowe, federal commission.

Dec. 1990: The Heart Of The Matter: Who Will Survive The Holyfield-Douglas War? Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Michael Carbajal, Ruelas Brothers, Best Fighter Poll.

Jan. 1991: Macho Ado About Nothing? Why Hector Camacho Wants To Be Believed. Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Interview: Irving Rudd. Also: Sugar Ray Leonard, Orlando Canizales, Vinny Pazienza.

Feb. 1991: 10 Fighters To Fear: Boxing's Most Destructive Hitters. Color Pinup: Razor Ruddock. Interview: Ray Mercer. Also: Roberto Duran, Saoul Mamby, Mills Lane, Sugar Ray Robinson.

May 1991: Ruddock Eyes The Big Upset Of Tyson. Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Jeff Fenech. Also: Virgil Hill, Pernell Whitaker, Alex Ramos, Simon Brown, Buddy McGirt.

June 1991: Exclusive KO Interview: Evander Holyfield. Color Pinup: Raul Perez. Also: Norris-Leonard, Charles Williams, champs of 1971 vs. 1991, Chavez.

July 1991: Riddick Bowe: Is He Destined To Be Heavyweight Champ? Color Pinup: Michael Carbajal. Interview: Buddy McGirt. Also: Bobby Czyz, Buster Douglas, Mark Breland.

Aug. 1991: Desert Storm II: Will The Tyson-Ruddock Rematch Be Different? Color Pinup: Loreto Garza. Interview: Michael Carbajal. Also: Brown-Blocker, Fenech-Nelson preview, Harold Brazier, Yuh-Carbajal.

Sept. 1991: Remember Me? I Won The Fight! What "The Real Deal" Still Has To Deal With. Color Pinup: Ray Mercer. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Larry Holmes, southpaw heavyweights, Toney-Nunn, Brown-Taylor.

Oct. 1991: Thomas Hearns Works Another Miracle! Now There Are More Hills Left To Climb. Color Pinup: Humberto Gonzalez. Interview: Mike McCallum. Also: Norris-Curry, Richard Steele, Troy Dorsey.

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson-The Only Heavyweight That Matters. Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Interview: Troy Dorsey. Also: Fenech-Nelson, James Toney, lost art of bodypunching.

Dec. 1991: Tyson vs. Holyfield-The Experts Analyze The Elements That Will Decide The Fight. Color Pinup: Joey Gamache. Also: Michael Moorer, Pernell Whitaker, Greg Richardson, Robert Quiroga.

Jan. 1992: The Tyson-Holyfield Showdown: An Exclusive Forecast By George Foreman. Color Pinup: Myung Woo Yuh. Also: Fenech-Nelson, TV announcers, boxing's toughest men, Toney-McCallum.

March 1992: KO Interview Mike Tyson: An In-Depth, Toe-To-Toe Talk With Boxing's Biggest Star. Color Pinup: Michael Moorer. Also: Thomas Hearns, Tracy Patterson, Larry Holmes, best fighter poll.

May 1992: Division-By-Division Faceoffs: The Best Of '92 vs. The Best Of '67. Color Pinup: James Warring. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Tommy Morrison, Bert Cooper, Gianfranco Rosi.

June 1992: If Not Tyson Or Holyfield, Then Who? Bowe? Moorer? Ruddock? Lewis? Mercer? Color Pinup: James Toney. Interview: Shelly Finkel. Also: Scotty Olson, overrated and underrated fighters, Orlin Norris, Whitaker-Pineda.

July 1992: The Title Reign of Evander Holyfield: A Reason To Hide ... Or A Reason For Pride? Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Interview: Julian Jackson. Also: Kelley-Dorsey, Nelson-Fenech, Kennedy McKinney.

Aug. 1992: Bowe Knows The Big Fight: The Top Contender Analyzes Holmes-Holyfield. Color Pinup: Julian Jackson. Interview: Michael Spinks. Also: Thomas Hearns, Blue Horizon, fighting fear, Toney-Barkley, Greg Haugen.

Sept. 1992: Can Tommy Morrison Punch Out The Theory ... White Men Can't Fight. Color Pinup: Welcome Ncita. Interview: Ken Norton. Also: Reggie Johnson, Jimmy Paul, McGirt-Blocker, Ali-Shavers.

Oct. 1992: The Olympics: Golden Memories ... And Golden Futures? Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Bobby Czyz. Also: Genaro Hernandez, Terry Norris.

Nov. 1992: Foreman vs. Holmes: The Fight Evander Holyfield Should Have Prevented. Color Pinup: Iran Barkley. Interview: Joey Gamache. Also: Hector Camacho, Tracy Patterson, Rudy Zavala.

Dec. 1992: The Final Four: Ruddock vs. Lewis, Holyfield vs. Bowe. Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: Whitaker-Pineda, Bowe-Coetzer, Alex Stewart, Gamache-Lopez.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Who Will Win and Why. Color Pinup: Al Cole. Interview: Vinny Pazienza. Also: James Toney, Terrence Alli, Maurice Blocker.

March 1993: Not Just Another English Muffin: Lennox Lewis Powers His Way Toward The Title. Color Pinup: Leeonzer Barber. Interview: Emanuel Steward. Also: Reggie Johnson, Lopez-Gamache, USA Network.

May 1993: Recapping The Future: Julio Cesar Chavez' Road To 100-0. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Junior Jones. Also: Buddy McGirt, Riddick Bowe, Raul Marquez.

Dec. 1993: The KO Feud Rages On: "I Will Torture You!" Says Riddick Bowe To Lennox Lewis. Color Pinup: Kennedy McKinney. Also: Mississippi boxing, George Foreman, Yori Boy Campas , Carbajal-Kim, Morrison-Moorer.

June 1994: Frankie Randall Makes It Official: J.C. Chavez Is A Beaten Man! Color Pinup: Jose Luis Bueno. Also: Orlin & Terry Norris, Felix Trinidad, Holyfield-Moorer preview.

July 1994: The Upset Epidemic! Carbajal's Conqueror: Chiquita Gonzalez. Color Pinup: Junior Jones. Interview: Rafael Ruelas. Also: Jake Rodriguez, Czyz-Hearns preview, Randall-Chavez II preview.

June 1995: The Tug-Of-War Over Mike Tyson. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Vasquez. Interview: Oliver McCall. Also: Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Arguello, Kostya Tszyu.

March 1996: Whether He Fights Or Not ... Tyson Is Hot! Hot!! Hot!!! Color Pinup: Marco Antonio Barrera. Interview: Jose Sulaiman. Also: Reggie Tuur, heavyweight prospects, champion's edge.

June 1996: Destined For The Hall Of Fame: Who's In, Who's Out. Color Pinup: Wayne McCullough. Interview: Cedric Kushner. Also: Danny Romero, Mark Breland, Dynamite Dozen—the next 12.

July 1996: Awesome Again! Tyson Destroys Bruno. Color Pinup: Tyson-Bruno. Interview: Christy Martin. Also: Chavez-De La Hoya preview, Derrick Gainer, '96 Hall of Fame inductees.

Sept. 1996: Tyson vs. Seldon. Don't Bet On This Fight Until You've Read This Story!

Color Pinup: Arturo Gatti. Interview: Butterbean. Also: Dana Rosenblatt, '92 Olympians, McGuigan-Pedroza.

Nov. 1996 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Terry Norris. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Roy Jones, Roberto Duran, Joe Cortez.

Dec. 1996: Andrew Golota—Taking The Low Road to Stardom. Color Pinup: Mark Johnson. Interview: Rock Newman. Also: De La Hoya-Gonzalez, Chuck Bodak, bizarre endings, Chavez-Rosario.

Winter 1996: This Is War! Holyfield-Tyson Will Be Explosive ... And Short. Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bernard Hopkins. Also: Riddick Bowe, David Reid, Holyfield-Qawi.

Jan. 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Bowe-Golota II: Hatred And Vengeance ... It's A Beautiful Thing! Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Lou Duva. Also: Mouse Strauss, heavyweight rematches, Azumah Nelson.

Feb. 1997: *KO's* 1997 Wish List. Color Pinup: Ike Quartey. Interview: Naseem Hamed. Also: David Tua, Felix Trinidad, Adolpho Washington, Bobby Czyz.

March 1997: Holyfield's Trainer Tells All! An Inside Look At The Upset Of The Year. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Interview: Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: George Foreman, Lupe Pintor, boxing bill, Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Aug. 1997: Oscar Reaches ... But Can't Grasp The Stars. Color Pinup: Nate Miller. Interview: Hector Camacho. Also: Norris-Trinidad preview, Hall of Fame, Angel Manfredy.

Sept. 1997: A Legitimate Grudge Match! Why Romero-Tapia Could Be The Fight Of The Year. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: David Tua. Also: Ike Quartey, George Foreman, top promoters.

Nov. 1997: Filling In The Missing Pieces: What "The Bite" Means To Boxing. Color Pinup: Christy Martin. Interview: Jim Lampley. Also: Vince Phillips, British prospects, Iran Barkley.

Dec. 1997: Johnny Tapia Outshines Danny Romero: The Defining Moment In A "Crazy Life." Color Pinup: Genaro Hernandez. Interview: Frans Botha. Also: Lewis-Akiwande, Don King, Charles Brewer.

Holiday 1997 (Special 88-Page Edition): Holyfield-Moorer II: Can Evander Avenge His Ugliest Defeat? Color Pinup: Vince Phillips. Interview: Mills Lane. Also: Roy Jones, Baby Jake Matlala, Boxing 2000.

Jan. 1998: De La Hoya Humbles The Macho Man: "Oscar's The Best I've Ever Fought." Color Pinup: William Guthrie. Interview: Mark Johnson. Also: Johnny Tapia, Pinklon Thomas, defense.

Feb. 1998: Is Lennox Lewis The World's Best Heavyweight? Color Pinup: Charles Brewer. Interview: Marc Ratner. Also: Otis Grant, Arturo Gatti.

March 1998: Evander Holyfield: For The Real Deal, Lewis Is No Big Deal. Color Pinup: Lou Del Valle. Interview: Lennox Lewis. Also: David Izon, Meldrick Taylor, rapid weight loss.

May 1998: Living Up To The Hype: Sometimes They Do ... Sometimes They Don't. Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Best Of ... (Part III). Also: Naseem Hamed, Marty Denkin, women's boxing.

June 1998: Lewis vs. Holyfield: Why The Fight Of The Year Isn't Going To Happen. Color Pinup: Evander Holyfield. Interview: Eddie Futch. Also: Hector Lizarraga, pain, Head-To-Head review.

July 1998: Boxing's Hungry ~~B.A.D.~~ Boyz: They Only Come Out At Night. Color Pinup: Angel Manfredy. Also: Reggie Johnson, Ike Ibeabuchi, 50 all-time fantasy matchups.

Aug. 1998: Lewis Bombs Out Briggs: Would The WBC Champ Do This To Holyfield? Color Pinup: Keith Mullings. Interview: Shane Mosley. Also: Pernell Whitaker, Marco Antonio Barrera, Roberto Garcia.

Sept. 1998: Can Mike Tyson Make A Successful Comeback? Sugar Ray Leonard Has The Answer. Color Pinup: Michael Grant. Interview: Brad Jacobs. Also: Naseem Hamed, Wayne McCullough, Kirk Johnson.

Oct. 1998: The Ultimate Fantasy Card. Color Pinup: Oscar De La Hoya. Interview: Roy Jones. Also: Brendan Ingle, NYPD boxing, prospect blueprint.

Nov. 1998 The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Reggie Johnson. Interview: Tim Austin. Also: Cesar Bazan, Spencer Oliver, Bobby Czyz.

Dec. 1998: Winning Fights Is Easier Than Winning Fans: Why Can't We Appreciate Roy Jones? Color Pinup: Tim Austin. Interview: Michael Grant. Also: Christy Martin, Ali Reform Act, one-hit wonders.

Holiday 1998: Toe-To-Toe With The Top 10: Where Does Tyson Fit In? Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Inteview: Larry Hazzard. Also: Evander Holyfield, junior middleweights.

Jan. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Oscar Eliminates Chazez ... Now The Real Fights Begin! Color Pinup: Yory Boy Campas. Interview: William Joppy. Also: Mark Johnson, U.S.A. vs. the world.

Feb. 1999: Holyfield & Lewis: Did They Hurt Themselves Before They Could Hurt Each Other? Color Pinup: Andrew Golota. Interview: Angel Manfredy. Also: Mismatches, Bobby Czyz on watching fights.

March 1999: Exposed! Is Hamed Really Hector Camacho In Disguise? Color Pinup: Mike Tyson. Interview: Joe Frazier. Also: Zab Judah, Vuyani Bungu, Frankie Randall.

May 1999: The Tyson Of Old ... Or Just An Old Tyson? Color Pinup: Luisito Espinosa. Interview: Fernando Vargas. Also: Antonio Diaz, Sumya Anani, standing eight-count.

June 1999: Will Tyson's Jail Time Be A Career Killer? Color Pinup: Johnny Tapia. Interview: Floyd Mayweather. Also: Roy Jones, 1999 Hall of Fame, stagnation.

July 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: The Fight The Public Demands ... But Is It Going To Happen? Color Pinup: David Tua. Interview: Tommy Brooks. Also: Floyd Mayweather, Tony Marshall, best of the century.

Aug. 1999: Lewis vs. Holyfield II: Should We Expect Anything Different Next Time? Color Pinup: Fernando Vargas. Interview: David Reid. Also: Ibeabuchi-Byrd, Melissa Salamone.

Sept. 1999: Mayeather vs. Mosley: Who's The Future Of Boxing? Color Pinup: James Page. Interview: J Russell Peltz. Also: Evander Holyfield, Thomas Hearns, Angel Manfredy.

Oct. 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Felix Trinidad. Interview: Jake LaMotta. Also: Tony Ayala, Erik Morales, Junior Jones.

Nov. 1999: De La Hoya vs. Trinidad: "It's Gonna Come Down To Who The Hell Wants It Most!" Color Pinup: David Reid. Interview: Arturo Gatti. Also: Roy Jones, Sugar Shane Mosley, Vassily Jirov.

Dec. 1999: David Reid & Fernando Vargas: Olympic Teammates On A Collision Course! Color Pinup: Zab Judah. Interview: Ike Ibeabuchi. Also: Vitaly Klitschko, Antonio Tarver, Mike Tyson.

Holiday 1999 (Special 88-Page Edition): Lewis-Holyfield II: Why We Demand A Knockout! Color Pinup: Sharmba Mitchell. Interview: Paulie Ayala. Also: James Toney, James Page & Terronn Millett, decade review.

Jan. 2000: Fool's Gold? Trinidad May Have Tarnished Oscar's Image Forever! Color Pinup: Paulie Ayala. Interview: Tony Ayala Jr. Also: David Reid, Johnny Nelson.

Feb. 2000: Breakout 2000: Who's Going To Lead The Way In Y2K? Color Pinup: Roy Jones. Interview: Bob Arum. Also: Shane Mosley, Wise-Chavez, Iran Barkley.

March 2000: Mike Tyson: "I'm Tired Of This Crap!" So Are We, Mike! Color Pinup: Vernon Forrest. Interview: James Page. Also: Erik Morales & Naseem Hamed, Diego Corrales, women's boxing.

May 2000: Michael Grant vs. Lennox Lewis—25 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Paul Spadafora. Interview: Dan Goossen. Also: Floyd Mayweather, Johnny Tapia, southpaws.

June 2000: Lewis vs. Grant: Who Will Win ... And Why. Color Pinup: Vitaly Klitschko. Interview: Sharmba Mitchell. Also: Shane Mosley, David Izon, 2000 Hall of Fame.

July 2000: Today's Fighters, Tomorrow's Hall Of Famers. Color Pinup: Keith Holmes. Interview: Shane Mosley. Also: Zab Judah, Morales-Barrera, Wayne Braithwaite.

Aug. 2000: Mosley Prepares For Oscar: "It Will Be Like The First Round Of Hagler-Hearns. Color Pinup: Erik Morales. Interview: Chris Byrd. Also: Vargas-Quartey, Thomas Hearns, Felix Trinidad, common sense vs. cowardice.

Sept. 2000: Now Vargas Is Ready For Trinidad & De La Hoya. Color Pinup: Erik Morales. Interview: Chris Byrd. Also: Trinidad vs. all-time greats, Thomas Hearns, common sense vs. cowardice.

Oct. 2000 (Special 88-Page Edition): The *KO* 100. Color Pinup: Floyd Mayweather. Interview: Stevie Johnston. Also: Clifford Etienne, over-hyped heavyweights.

Nov. 2000: Sugar Rush! Mosley Achieves Superstardom At Oscar's Expense. Color Pinup: Lennox Lewis. Interview: Jay Larkin. Also: David Tua, Oleg Maskaev, Ben Tackie.

Dec. 2000: Mike Tyson vs. Lennox Lewis: 15 Insiders Pick The Winner. Color Pinup: Shane Mosley. Interview: Frank Maloney. Also: Oscar De La Hoya, Bronco McKart, our heroes' heroes.

[FULL-COLOR BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2001]

Feb. 2001: Fernando Vargas' Internal Battle: If He Can't Win It, He Can't Beat Trinidad. Interview: Evander Holyfield. Also: Derrick Gainer, Roy Jones, Naseem Hamed.

April 2001: Lewis Is Too Much For Tua ... But Could Tyson Do Any Better? Interview: Max Kellerman. Also: Floyd Mayweather, Wladimir Klitschko.

June 2001: Trinidad-Jones: Superfight Or Mismatch? Interview: Virgil Hill. Also: Mayweather-Corrales, Paul Ingle, Davey Hilton, Tyson's relationship with Vargas, Judah, and Mayweather.

Aug. 2001: Sugar Shane Mosley: Too Sweet For The Bad Boy Era? Interview: Richard Steele. Also: Evander Holyfield, Roy Jones, Jesus Chavez.

Oct. 2001: Tito Power—From Fans To Foes ... Everyone's Feeling It! Interview: Lou DiBella. Also: Hasim Rahman, Vargas-Rivera, F.I.S.T.

Dec. 2001: Laila Ali: The Fighter, The Sex Symbol ... The Future Of Women's Boxing? Interview: Laila Ali. Also: Oscar De La Hoya, Tim Austin, Manny Pacquiao, Hector Camacho Jr.

Feb. 2002: Bernard Hopkins: "I Am The American Dream. I Am The American Story" Interview: Wladimir Klitschko. Also: Omar Sheika, Vernon Forrest, Juan Lazcano.

April 2002: After Hitting Rock Bottom ... Lennox Is Back On The Path To Greatness. Interview: Duva Boxing. Also: Zab Judah, Mike Tyson, Thomas Tate.

June 2002: Tyson vs. Lewis: 10-Page Preview & Analysis. Interview: Jameel McCline. Also: *Ali* movie, Đorin vs. Balbi & Ward vs. Leija.

Aug. 2002: Still Crazy After All These Years: Should Mike Tyson Be Allowed To Fight? Interview: Kostya Tszyu. Also: Barrera-Morales II preview, Ayala-Adams, Ricky Hatto

☐ JUN/83	☐ MAY/88	☐ DEC/91	☐ AUG/97	☐ JAN/00
☐ AUG/83	☐ JUL/88	☐ JAN/92	☐ DEC/97	☐ FEB/00
☐ OCT/83	☐ AUG/88	☐ MAR/92	☐ HOL/97	☐ MAR/00
☐ JUL/84	☐ SEP/88	☐ MAY/92	☐ JAN/98	☐ MAY/00
☐ AUG/84	☐ OCT/88	☐ JUN/92	☐ FEB/98	☐ JUN/00
☐ OCT/84	☐ JAN/89	☐ JUL/92	☐ MAR/98	☐ JUL/00
☐ NOV/84	☐ FEB/89	☐ AUG/92	☐ MAY/98	☐ AUG/00
☐ JAN/85	☐ AUG/89	☐ SEP/92	☐ JUN/98	☐ SEP/00
☐ FEB/85	☐ SEP/89	☐ OCT/92	☐ JUL/98	☐ OCT/00
☐ MAR/85	☐ FEB/90	☐ NOV/92	☐ AUG/98	☐ NOV/00
☐ MAY/85	☐ JUN/90	☐ DEC/92	☐ SEP/98	☐ DEC/OO
☐ JUL/85	☐ JUL/90	☐ JAN/93	☐ NOV/98	☐ FEB/01
☐ AUG/85	☐ AUG/90	☐ MAR/93	☐ DEC/98	☐ APR/01
☐ DEC/85	☐ SEP/90	☐ MAY/93	☐ HOL/98	☐ JUN/01
☐ JAN/86	☐ OCT/90	☐ JUN/94	☐ JAN/99	☐ AUG/01
☐ JUL/86	☐ NOV/90	☐ JUL/94	☐ FEB/99	☐ OCT/01
☐ OCT/86	☐ DEC/90	☐ JUN/95	☐ MAR/99	☐ DEC/01
☐ DEC/86	☐ JAN/91	☐ MAR/96	☐ MAY/99	☐ FEB/02
☐ FEB/87	☐ FEB/91	☐ JUN/96	☐ JUN/99	☐ APR/02
☐ AUG/87	☐ MAY/91	☐ JUL/96	☐ JUL/99	☐ JUN/02
☐ SEP/87	☐ JUN/91	☐ SEP/96	☐ AUG/99	☐ AUG/02
☐ OCT/87	☐ JUL/91	☐ NOV/96	☐ SEP/99	
☐ NOV/87	☐ AUG/91	☐ DEC/96	☐ OCT/99	
☐ DEC/87	☐ SEP/91	☐ WIN/96	☐ NOV/99	
☐ JAN/88	☐ OCT/91	☐ JAN/97	☐ DEC/99	
☐ FEB/88	☐ NOV/91	☐ MAR/97	☐ HOL/99	

KO MAGAZINE

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $5 EACH

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____ as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____ **Apt.** _____

_____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only.
Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery
In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice: _____

5942/05-02

ALPHABET RATINGS

The Rankings of Boxing's Three International Governing Bodies

WBA RATINGS
(Ratings as of May 2002)

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champ: John Ruiz (USA)
1. Kirk Johnson (CAN)
2. Evander Holyfield (USA)
3. Vitaly Klitschko (UKR)
4. Mike Tyson (USA)
5. Nicolay Valouev (RUS)
6. Oliver McCall (USA)
7. Larry Donald (USA)
8. Jameel McCline (USA)
9. Hasim Rahman (USA)
10. David Tua (NZ)
11. Danny Williams (GB)
12. Lamon Brewster (USA)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Champ: Jean Marc Mormeck (FRA)
1. Alexander Gurov (UKR)
2. James Toney (USA)
3. Wayne Braithwaite (GUY)
4. Virgil Hill (USA)
5. Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)
6. O'Neil Bell (USA)
7. Vincenzo Cantatore (ITA)
8. Luis Pineda (PAN)
9. Dale Brown (CAN)
10. Valery Brudov (RUS)
11. Daniel Rowsell (AUSTRL)
12. Michael Nunn (USA)

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS
Super Champ: Roy Jones (USA)
Champ: Bruno Girard (FRA)
1. Lou Del Valle (USA)
2. Antonio Tarver (USA)
3. Clinton Woods (GB)
4. David Telesco (USA)
5. Mads Larsen (DEN)
6. Reggie Johnson (USA)
7. Julio Gonzalez (USA)
8. Thomas Hansvoll (NOR)
9. Montell Griffin (USA)
10. Rocky Torres (USA)
11. Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)
12. Rodney Moore (USA)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champ: Byron Mitchell (USA)
1. Mehdi Sahnoune (FRA)
2. Thomas Tate (USA)
3. David Starie (GB)
4. Antwun Echols (USA)
5. Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)
6. Mikkel Kessler (DEN)
7. Danilo Haussler (GER)
8. Markus Beyer (GER)
9. Manuel Siaca (PR)
10. Julio Cesar Green (DR)
11. Omar Sheika (USA)
12. Anthony Mundine (AUSTRL)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Super Champ: Bernard Hopkins (USA)
Champ: William Joppy (USA)
1. Felix Trinidad (PR)
2. Howard Eastman (GB)
3. Keith Holmes (USA)
4. Tito Mendoza (PAN)
5. Bert Schenk (GER)
6. Antonio Perugino (ITA)
7. Maselino Masoe (AUSTRL)
8. Darren Obah (AUSTRL)
9. Morrade Hakkar (FRA)
10. Hassine Cherifi (FRA)
11. Erland Betare (FRA)
12. Evans Ashira (DEN)

SUPER WELTERWEIGHTS
Champ: Fernando Vargas (USA)
1. Vacant
2. Mamadou Thiam (FRA)
3. Roman Karmazin (RUS)
4. Santiago Samaniego (PAN)
5. Rhoshii Wells (USA)
6. Angel Hernandez (USA)
7. Travis Simms (USA)
8. Michael Rask (DEN)
9. Akira Ohigashi (JAP)
10. Steve Roberts (GB)
11. Mehrdud Takaloo (GB)
12. Jose Flores (MEX)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Champ: Ricardo Mayorga (CR)
1. Vacant
2. Thomas Damgaard (DEN)
3. Michael Trabant (GERE)
4. Jose Rivera (USA)
5. Andrew Lewis (GUY)
6. Golden Johnson (USA)
7. Vincent Phillips (USA)
8. Carlos Baldomir (ARG)
9. Danny Perez (USA)
10. Frederic Klose (FRA)
11. Felix Flores (PR)
12. Hercules Kyvelos (CAN)

SUPER LIGHTWEIGHTS
Super Champ: Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)
Champ: Diobelys Hurtado (CUB)
1. Soulemane M'Baye (FRA)
2. Sharmba Mitchell (USA)
3. Ricky Hatton (GB)
4. Oktay Urkal (TUR)
5. Randall Bailey (USA)
6. Gianluca Branco (ITA)
7. Khalid Rahilou (FRA)
8. Micky Ward (USA)
9. Ener Julio (COL)
10. Omar Weis (ARG)
11. Henry Bruseles (PR)
12. Masakazu Satake (JAP)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champ: Leonard Dorin (CAN)
1. Miguel Callist (PAN)
2. Stefano Zoff (ITA)
3. Julien Lorcy (FRA)
4. Juan Lazcano (USA)
5. Raul Balbi (ARG)
6. Steve Johnston (USA)
7. Juan Gomez-Trinidad (PR)
8. Prawet Singwangcha (THAI)
9. Angel Manfredy (USA)
10. Edson Xuxa Nascimento (BRA)
11. Colin Dunne (GB)
12. Juan Valenzuela (MEX)

SUPER FEATHERWEIGHTS
Super Champ: Acelino Freitas (BRA)
Champ: Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)
1. Joel Casanayor (CUB)
2. Jorge Barrios (ARG)
3. Phillip Ndou (SA)
4. Tontcho Tontchev (BUL)
5. Lakva Sim (MON)
6. Jose Miguel Cotto (PR)
7. Silvano Usini (ITA)
8. Carlos Hernandez (SAL)
9. Antonio Cermeno (VEN)
10. Jesus Chavez (MEX)
11. Daniel Attah (NIG)
12. Nate Campbell (USA)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champ: Derrick Gainer (USA)
1. Daniel Seda (PR)
2. Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)
3. Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)
4. Naseem Hamed (GB)
5. Injin Chi (KOR)
6. Lewis Woods (US)
7. Victor Polo (COL)
8. Takashi Koshimoto (JAP)
9. Kengo Nagashima (JAP)
10. Chris John (IND)
11. Spend Abazi (DEN)
12. Oscar Leon (COL)

SUPER BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champ: Osamu Sato (JAP)
1. Salim Medjkoune (FRA)
2. Oscar Larios (MEX)
3. Yober Ortega (VEN)
4. Paulie Ayala (USA)
5. Yoddamrong Sithyodthong (THAI)
6. Kozo Ishii (JAP)
7. Johnny Armour (GB)
8. Somsak Sithchachawan (THAI)
9. Michael Brodie (GB)
10. Enrique Sanchez (MEX)
11. Nadel Hussein (AUSTRL)
12. Napapol Kiattisachokchai (THAI)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champ: Johnny Bredahl (DEN)
1. Leo Gamez (VEN)
2. Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)
3. Rafael Marquez (MEX)
4. Eidy Moya (VEN)
5. Adan Vargas (MEX)
6. Hideki Todaka (JAP)
7. Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)
8. Ratanachai Vorapin (THAI)
9. Genaro Garcia (USA)
10. Nobuaki Naka (JAP)
11. Diego Morales (MEX)
12. Heriberto Ruiz (MEX)

SUPER FLYWEIGHTS
Champ: Alexander Munoz (VEN)
1. Vacant
2. Mbwana Matumla (TNZ)
3. Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)
4. Sompichai Pisnurachank (THAI)
5. Celes Kobayashi (JAP)
6. Katsushige Kawashima (JAP)
7. Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)
8. Luis Bolanos (COL)
9. Jesus Rojas (VEN)
10. Kazuhiro Ryuko (JAP)
11. Takuya Kiya (JAP)
12. Meiji C.P. Gym (THAI)

FLYWEIGHTS
Champ: Eric Morel (USA)
1. Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)
2. Mzukisi Sikali (SA)
3. Hidenobu Honda (JAP)
4. Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)
5. Damaen Kelly (GB)
6. Isidro Garcia (MEX)
7. Lorenzo Parra (VEN)
8. Masaki Nakamuna (JAP)
9. Hiroshi Nakano (JAP)
10. Tomas Rojas (MEX)
11. Hussein Hussein (AUSTRL)
12. Peter Culshaw (GB)

LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS
Champ: Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)
1. Bebis Mendoza (COL)
2. Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)
3. Pichit C. Siriwat (THAI)
4. Masibulele Makepula (SA)
5. Edgar Velasquez (VEN)
6. Marvin Tampos (PHIL)
7. Eric Ortiz (MEX)
8. Noel Tunacao (PHIL)
9. Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)
10. Wendyl Janiola (PHIL)
11. Tatsuo Kayashida (JAP)
12. Mhikiza Myekeni (SA)

MINIMUMWEIGHTS
Champ: Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)
1. Noel Arambulet (VEN)
2. Chana Porpaoin (THAI)
3. Joma Gamboa (PHIL)
4. Khulile Makeba (SA)
5. Alex Sanchez (PR)
6. Daniel Reyes (COL)
7. Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)
8. Reynaldo Frutos (PAN)
9. Miguel Barrera (COL)
10. Jaewon Kim (KOR)
11. Genki Ohnaka (JAP)
12. Pornsawan Pramuk (THAI)

WBC RATINGS
(Ratings as of May 2002)

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champ: Lennox Lewis (GB)
1. Mike Tyson (USA)
2. Vitali Klitschko (UKR)
3. Hasim Rahman (USA)
4. Evander Holyfield (USA)
5. Oliver McCall (USA)
6. Juan Carlos Gomez (CUB)
7. David Tua (NZ)
8. Fres Oquendo (USA)
9. Chris Byrd (USA)
10. Jameel McCline (USA)
11. Danny Williams (GB)
12. Clifford Etienne (USA)
13. Ray Mercer (USA)
14. Kirk Johnson (CAN)
15. Lamon Brewster (USA)
16. Tim Witherspoon (USA)
17. Michael Moorer (USA)
18. Sergei Lyakhovich (RUS)
19. Joe Mesi (USA)
20. Larry Donald (USA)
21. Lance Whitaker (USA)
22. Vaughn Bean (USA)
23. Monte Barrett (USA)
24. Brian Nielsen (DEN)
25. Luan Krasniqi (GER)
26. Henry Akinwande (GB)
27. Faruq Saleem (USA)
28. Peter Okhello (UGA)
29. Nikolay Valouev (RUS)
30. Dimitry Bakhov (KAZ)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Champ: Vacant
1. Wayne Braithwaite (GUY)
2. Vincenzo Cantatore (ITA)
3. O'Neil Bell (USA)
4. Alexander Gurov (UKR)
5. Carlos Cruzat (CHI)
6. Louis Azille (DR)
7. Dale Brown (CAN)
8. Sebastiaan Rothmann (SA)
9. Michael Nunn (USA)
10. James Toney (USA)
11. Turan Bagci (TUR)
12. Ramon Garbey (USA)
13. Jason Robinson (USA)
14. Bruce Scott (GB)
15. Virgil Hill (USA)
16. Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)
17. Rudiger May (GER)
18. Kelvin Davis (USA)
19. Luis Andres Pineda (PAN)
20. Carl Thompson (GB)
21. Alain Simon (FRA)
22. Pietro Aurino (ITA)
23. Adolpho Washington (USA)
24. Arthur Williams (USA)
25. Roman Kovalchuk (UKR)
26. Wlodarczyk Krysztov (POL)
27. Mohamed Ben Guesmia (ALG)
28. Kenny Keene (USA)
29. Frederic Serrat (FRA)
30. Daniel Rowsell (AUSTRL)

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champ: Roy Jones (USA)
1. Clinton Woods (GB)
2. Yawe Davis (ITA)
3. Antonio Tarver (USA)
4. Mads Larsen (DEN)
5. Eric Harding (USA)
6. Julio Gonzalez (USA)
7. Reggie Johnson (USA)
8. Lou Del Valle (USA)
9. Jorge Castro (ARG)
10. Montell Griffin (USA)
11. Derrick Harmon (USA)
12. Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)
13. Thomas Hansvoll (NOR)
14. Syd Vanderpool (CAN)
15. David Telesco (USA)
16. Paul Briggs (AUSTRL)
17. Thomas Ulrich (GER)
18. Kamel Amrane (FRA)
19. Mario Tonus (ITA)
20. Sergio Baez (ARG)
21. Silvio Branco (ITA)
22. Glencoffe Johnson (USA)
23. Demetrius Jenkins (USA)
24. Stipe Drews (CRO)
25. Tomasz Adamek (POL)
26. Michael Rush (USA)
27. Arturo Rivera (MEX)
28. Danny Santiago (PR)
29. Rodney Moore (USA)
30. Alejandro Lakatus (ROM)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champ: Eric Lucas (CAN)
1. Markus Beyer (GER)
2. David Starie (GB)
3. Thomas Tate (USA)
4. Danilo Haussler (GER)
5. Mikkel Kessler (DEN)
6. Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)
7. Antwun Echols (USA)
8. Glenn Catley (GB)
9. Dingaan Thobela (SA)
10. Omar Sheika (USA)
11. Jurgen Brahmer (GER)
12. Mehdi Sanoune (FRA)
13. Yoshinori Nishizawa (JAP)
14. Dan Batchelder (USA)
15. Henry Porras (CR)
16. Robin Reid (GB)
17. Brian Magee (GB)
18. Mario Veit (GER)
19. David Reid (USA)
20. Scott Pemberton (USA)
21. Anthony Hanshaw (USA)
22. Juan Nelongo (SPA)
23. Nordin Ben Salah (HOL)
24. James Lubwana (UGA)
25. Vinny Paz (USA)
26. Jeff Lacy (USA)
27. Omar Gonzalez (ARG)
28. Rick Thornberry (AUSTRL)
29. Rudy Markussen (DEN)
30. Antoine Robinson (USA)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champ: Bernard Hopkins (USA)
1. Erland Betare (FRA)
2. Felix Trinidad (PR)
3. Cristian Sanavia (ITA)
4. Tito Mendoza (PAN)
5. Naotaka Hozumi (JAP)
6. Antonio Perugino (ITA)
7. Raymond Joval (HOL)
8. Morrade Hakkar (FRA)
9. Robert Allen (USA)
10. Raul Marquez (USA)
11. Kuvanych Toygonbayev (UZB)
12. Alejandro Berrio (COL)
13. Oure Evans (KEN)
14. Aslan Kodzoed (RUS)
15. Travis Simms (USA)
16. Aaron Davis (USA)
17. Carl Daniels (USA)
18. Jorge Sendra (SPA)
19. Tokunbo Olajide (CAN)
20. Andras Galfi (HUN)
21. Lansana Djallo (BEL)
22. Cristian Zanabria (ARG)
23. Hector Velazco (ARG)
24. Anthony Farnell (GB)
25. Delroy Leslie (GB)
26. Stephan Trabant (GER)
27. Satoru Suzuki (JAP)
28. Quentin Smith (USA)
29. Jermain Taylor (USA)
30. Maselino Masoe (NZ)

SUPER WELTERWEIGHTS
Champ: Oscar De La Hoya (USA)
1. Roman Karmazin (RUS)
2. Francisco Castillejo (SPA)
3. Fitz Vanderpool (CAN)
4. Bronco McKart (USA)
5. Nader Hamdan (AUSTRL)
6. Akira Ohigashi (JAP)
7. Mamadou Thiam (FRA)
8. Steve Roberts (GB)
9. Wayne Alexander (GB)
10. Angel Hernandez (MEX)
11. Kofi Jantuah (GHA)
12. Richard Williams (GB)
13. Alex Bunema (USA)
14. Rhoshii Wells (USA)
15. Kassim Ouma (USA)
16. J.C. Candelo (COL)
17. Michael Rask (DEN)
18. Christophe Canclaux (FRA)
19. Santiago Samaniego (PAN)
20. Sergei Dzindziruk (UKR)
21. Mihaly Kotai (HUN)
22. Wilfredo Rivera (PR)
23. Emmett Linton (USA)
24. Adrian Stone (GB)
25. Joshua Onyango (KEN)
26. Gary Jones (USA)
27. Joachin Alcine (CAN)
28. Joya Kawai (JAP)
29. Yuri Tsarenko (RUS)
30. William Gare (SA)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Champ: Vernon Forrest (USA)
1. Shane Mosley (USA)
2. Jose Luis Cruz (MEX)
3. Carlos Baldomir (ARG)
4. Thomas Damgaard (DEN)
5. Danny Perez (USA)
6. Hercules Kyvelos (CAN)
7. Manuel Gomez (MEX)
8. Rafael Pineda (COL)
9. Rev Santillan (PHIL)
10. Michel Trabant (GER)
11. Andrew Lewis (GUY)
12. Jawaid Khaliq (GB)
13. Jeffrey Hill (USA)
14. Michele Orlando (ITA)
15. Christian Bladt (DEN)
16. Alexander Vetoux (UKR)
17. Sergio Martinez (ARG)
18. Golden Johnson (USA)
19. James Hare (GB)
20. Julian Holland (AUSTRL)
21. Alessandro Duran (ITA)
22. Hassan Al (DEN)
23. Frederic Klose (FRA)
24. Juan Carlos Rubio (MEX)
25. Neil Sinclair (GB)
26. Charles Whitaker (CAY)
27. Chantel Stanciel (USA)
28. Luther Smith (USA)
29. Miguel Rodriguez (USA)
30. Carlos Quintana (PR)

SUPER LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champ: Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)
1. Gianluca Branco (ITA)
2. Arturo Gatti (CAN)
3. Ricky Hatton (GB)
4. Eamonn Magee (GB)
5. Ben Tackie (GHA)
6. James Leija (USA)
7. Oktay Urkal (TUR)
8. Omar Weis (ARG)
9. Hector Camacho Jr. (PR)
10. Masakazu Satake (JAP)
11. Gabriel Mapuoka (FRA)
12. Sharmba Mitchell (USA)
13. Wilfredo Vilches (ARG)
14. Ener Julio (COL)
15. Miguel Cotto (PR)
16. Francisco Bojado (MEX)
17. Mikhail Krivolapov (RUS)
18. Vince Phillips (USA)
19. Soulemane M'Baye (FRA)
20. Terronn Millett (USA)
21. Ricardo Williams (USA)
22. Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)
23. Vivian Harris (USA)
24. Junior Witter (GB)
25. Diobelys Hurtado (CUB)
26. Pablo Sarmiento (ARG)

27. Juan Mosquera (PAN)
28. Ivan Kirpa (RUS)
29. Terrance Cauthen (USA)
30. Ray Oliveira (USA)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champ: Floyd Mayweather (USA)
1. Jose Luis Castillo (MEX)
2. Steve Johnston (USA)
3. Juan Lazcano (USA)
4. Stefano Zoff (ITA)
5. Carlos Gerena (PR)
6. Raul Balbi (ARG)
7. Julien Lorcy (FRA)
8. Victoriano Damian Sosa (DR)
9. Colin Dunne (GB)
10. Sandro Casamonica (ITA)
11. Aldo Rios (ARG)
12. Bobby Vanzie (GB)
13. Dennis Laurente (PHIL)
14. Julian Wheeler (USA)
15. Juan Valenzuela (MEX)
16. Julio Diaz (USA)
17. Zimele Mpusula (SA)
18. Miguel Callist (PAN)
19. Diego Gimenez (ARG)
20. Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)
21. Cesar Bazan (MEX)
22. Efren Hinojosa (MEX)
23. Omar Bernal (MEX)
24. Michele Delli Paoli (ITA)
25. Gary Balletto (USA)
26. Sayan Sanchat (RUS)
27. Michael Clark (USA)
28. Steve Murray (GB)
29. Cristian Bejarano (MEX)
30. Wilmer Gomez (PAN)

SUPER FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champ: Vacant
1. Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)
2. Kengo Nagashima (JAP)
3. Jesus Chavez (USA)
4. Randy Suico (PHIL)
5. Philip Ndou (SA)
6. Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)
7. Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)
8. Joel Casamayor (CUB)
9. Jorge Barrios (ARG)
10. Affif Djelti (FRA)
11. Pedro Miranda (SPA)
12. Tontcho Tontchev (BUL)
13. Daniel Alicea (PR)
14. Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)
15. Fernando Trejo (MEX)
16. Jorge Paez (MEX)
17. Ernesto Zepeda (MEX)
18. Michael Gomez (GB)
19. Boris Sinitsin (RUS)
20. Mzonke Fana (SA)
21. Orlando Salido (MEX)
22. Claudio Martinet (ARG)
23. Javier Alvarez (ARG)
24. Alex Arthur (GB)
25. Silvano Usini (ITA)
26. Lamont Pearson (USA)
27. Javier Jauregui (MEX)
28. Nate Campbell (USA)
29. Daniel Attah (NIG)
30. Hogu Min (KOR)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champ: Erik Morales (MEX)
1. Injin Chi (KOR)
2. Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)
3. Michael Brodie (GB)
4. Takashi Koshimoto (JAP)
5. Manuel Calvo (SPA)
6. Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)
7. Naseem Hamed (GB)
8. Anthony Tshehla (SA)
9. Scott Harrison (GB)
10. Guty Espadas (MEX)
11. Manuel Medina (MEX)
12. Luis Fuentes (MEX)
13. Istvan Kovacs (HUN)
14. William Abelyan (USA)
15. Junior Jones (USA)
16. Panther Yanagida (JAP)
17. Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)
18. Fernando Velardez (MEX)
19. Daniel Seda (PR)
20. Yangsoo Sung (KOR)
21. Orlando Soto (PAN)
22. Zahir Raheem (USA)
23. Frankie Toledo (USA)
24. Cristobal Cruz (MEX)
25. Pastor Maurin (ARG)
26. Roger Medal (NIC)
27. Oscar Leon (COL)
28. Augie Sanchez (USA)
29. Cyril Thomas (FRA)
30. Eiichi Sugama (JAP)

SUPER BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champ: Willie Jorrin (USA)
1. Israel Vazquez (MEX)
2. Oscar Larios (MEX)
3. Kiattisak Chocchoi (THAI)
4. Paulie Ayala (USA)
5. Salim Medjkoune (FRA)
6. Nadel Hussein (AUSTRL)
7. Youngjin Cho (KOR)
8. Manabu Fukushima (JAP)
9. Kozo Ishii (JAP)
10. Junichi Watanabe (JAP)
11. Wayne McCullough (IRE)
12. Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)
13. Bones Adams (USA)
14. Emmanuel Lucero (USA)
15. Jorge Eliecer Julio (COL)
16. Fabio Oliva (ARG)
17. Arnel Barotillo (AUSTRL)
18. Akihiro Kanai (JAP)
19. Celestino Caballero (PAN)
20. Debind Thapa (NEP)
21. Yober Ortega (VEN)
22. Wethya Singwangcha (THAI)
23. Joan Guzman (DR)
24. Angel Chacon (PR)
25. Mahyar Monshipour (FRA)
26. Michael Alldis (GB)
27. Turcay Kaya (FRA)
28. Norihisa Tomimoto (JAP)
29. Jose Luis Valbuena (VEN)
30. Hugo Soto (ARG)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champ: Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)
1. Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)
2. Genaro Garcia (USA)
3. Rafael Marquez (MEX)
4. Jess Maca (PHIL)
5. Diego Morales (MEX)
6. Spend Abazi (DEN)
7. Noel Wilders (GB)
8. Abner Cordero (PHIL)
9. Ricardo Vargas (MEX)
10. Hugo Dianzo (MEX)
11. David Guerault (FRA)
12. Julio Zarate (MEX)
13. Heriberto Ruiz (MEX)
14. Mark Johnson (USA)
15. Julio Gamboa (NIC)
16. Fabien Guillerme (FRA)
17. Francisco Mateos (MEX)
18. Gerardo Martinez (MEX)
19. Eidy Moya (VEN)
20. Nobuaki Naka (JAP)
21. Moises Castro (NIC)
22. Nicky Booth (GB)
23. Pete Frissina (USA)
24. Roger Gonzalez (USA)
25. Frankie DeMilo (SWE)
26. Ryuichi Minoriyama (JAP)
27. Jhonny Gonzalez (MEX)
28. Fasan 3K-Battery (THAI)
29. Hyok Jun Kim (KOR)
30. Eduardo Escobedo (MEX)

SUPER FLYWEIGHTS
Champ: Masamori Tokuyama (JAP)
1. Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)
2. Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)
3. Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)
4. Luis Bolanos (COL)
5. Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)
6. Malcolm Tunacao (PHIL)
7. Katsushige Kawashima (JAP)
8. Jose Beranza (MEX)
9. Mauricio Pastrana (COL)
10. Sot Sot Veeraphol (THAI)
11. Celes Kobayashi (JAP)
12. Shingo Sasaki (JAP)
13. Erick Lopez (MEX)
14. Eiji Kojima (JAP)
15. Medgoen Singsurat (THAI)
16. Takuya Kiya (JAP)
17. Luis Perez (NIC)
18. Oscar Andrade (MEX)
19. Alexander Knight (RUS)
20. Jamie Barcelona (PHIL)
21. Ricardo Cordoba (PAN)
22. Sergio Santillan (ARG)
23. Tomas Rojas (MEX)
24. Julio Coronel (COL)
25. Roberto Bonilla (NIC)
26. Jovy Oracion (PHIL)
27. Shin Ogata (JAP)
28. Trinidad Mendoza (MEX)
29. Tat Torres (MEX)
30. Lunga Ntontela (SA)

FLYWEIGHTS
Champ: Pongsaklek Wonjongkam (THAI)
1. Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)
2. Hidenobu Honda (JAP)
3. Hiroshi Nakano (JAP)
4. Wandee Chor Chareon (THAI)
5. Masaki Nakamuna (JAP)
6. Hussein Hussein (AUSTRL)
7. Randy Mangubat (PHIL)
8. Hawk Makepula (SA)
9. Gerson Guerrero (MEX)
10. Everardo Morales (MEX)
11. Alejandro Montiel (MEX)
12. Omar Narvaez (ARG)
13. Damaen Kelly (GB)
14. Luis Maldonado (MEX)
15. Takefumi Sakata (JAP)
16. Ivan Hernandez (MEX)
17. Koji Koyama (JAP)
18. Rolly Lunas (PHIL)
19. Lorenzo Parra (VEN)
20. Hayato Asai (JAP)
21. Jason Booth (GB)
22. Gabriel Elizondo (USA)
23. Evaristo Primero (MEX)
24. Daisuke Naito (JAP)
25. Peter Culshaw (GB)
26. Yosuke Morishima (JAP)
27. Gilberto Keb-Baas (MEX)
28. Alejandro Moreno (MEX)
29. Gabula Vabaza (SA)
30. Mimoun Chent (FRA)

LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS
Champ: Yosam Choi (KOR)
1. Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)
2. Juanito Rubillar (PHIL)
3. Agustin Luna (MEX)
4. Jesus Martinez (MEX)
5. Bebis Mendoza (COL)
6. Eric Ortiz (MEX)
7. Tatsuo Hayashida (JAP)
8. John Molina (COL)
9. Wendyl Janiola (PHIL)
10. Rodrigo Garcia (MEX)
11. Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)
12. Victor Burgos (MEX)
13. Pilkoo Kang (KOR)
14. Jun Kitano (JAP)
15. Rafael Lozano (SPA)
16. Vuyisile Bebe (SA)
17. Joma Gamboa (PHIL)
18. Shingo Yamaguchi (JAP)
19. Jinho Kim (KOR)
20. Juan Centero (NIC)
21. Flash Villacura (PHIL)
22. Ernesto Castro (NIC)
23. Manuel Vargas (MEX)
24. Minsoo Jang (KOR)
25. Andrea Sarritzu (ITA)
26. Omar Nino (MEX)
27. Keisuke Yokoyama (JAP)
28. Steve Msimango (SA)
29. Deende Kengkarun (THAI)
30. Samransak Singmanassak (THAI)

STRAWWEIGHTS
Champ: Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)
1. Khulile Makeba (SA)
2. Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)
3. Isaac Bustos (MEX)
4. Noel Tunacao (PHIL)
5. Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)
6. Heriberto Gijon (PHIL)
7. Noel Arambulet (VEN)
8. Jaewon Kim (KOR)
9. Chana Porpaoin (THAI)
10. Juan Palacios (NIC)
11. Makoto Suzuki (JAP)
12. Satoshi Kogumasaka (JAP)
13. Sarikalek O. Eakarin (THAI)
14. Rodel Mayol (PHIL)
15. Gemki Ohnaka (JAP)
16. Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)
17. Jairo Arango (PAN)
18. Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)
19. Hiroyuki Abe (JAP)
20. Omar Soto (MEX)
21. Wele Maqolo (SA)
22. Sizwe Sinyabi (SA)
23. Eagle Okuda (JAP)
24. Manny Melchor (PHIL)
25. Valentin Leon (MEX)
26. Fernando Luna (MEX)
27. Miguel Barrera (MEX)
28. Daisuke Iida (JAP)
29. Lorenzo Trejo (MEX)
30. Decho Bankluaygym (THAI)

IBF RATINGS
(Ratings as of May 2002)

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champ: Lennox Lewis (GB)
1. Chris Byrd (USA)
2. Vacant
3. David Tua (NZ)
4. Hasim Rahman (USA)
5. Evander Holyfield (USA)
6. Jameel McCline (USA)
7. Monte Barrett (USA)
8. Fres Oquendo (USA)
9. Clifford Etienne (USA)
10. Oliver McCall (USA)
11. Tim Witherspoon (USA)
12. Lance Whitaker (USA)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Champ: Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. O'Neil Bell (USA)
4. Alexander Gurov (UKR)
5. James Toney (USA)
6. Wayne Braithwaite (GUY)
7. Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)
8. Kelvin Davis (USA)
9. Dale Brown (CAN)
10. Jason Robinson (USA)
11. Jorge Castro (ARG)
12. Virgil Hill (USA)

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champ: Roy Jones (USA)
1. Antonio Tarver (USA)
2. Vacant
3. Derrick Harmon (USA)
4. Eric Harding (USA)
5. David Telesco (USA)
6. Reggie Johnson (USA)
7. Yawe Davis (ITA)
8. Julio Gonzalez (USA)
9. Montell Griffin (USA)
10. Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)
11. Silvio Branco (ITA)
12. Glencoffe Johnson (USA)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champ: Sven Ottke (GER)
1. Thomas Tate (USA)
2. Vacant
3. Antwun Echols (USA)
4. Danilo Haussler (GER)
5. Mads Larsen (DEN)
6. David Starie (GB)
7. Markus Beyer (GER)
8. Omar Sheika (USA)
9. Sam Hill (USA)
10. Richard Grant (USA)
11. Fernando Zuniga (USA)
12. Syd Vanderpool (CAN)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champ: Bernard Hopkins (USA)
1. Vacant
2. Felix Trinidad (PR)
3. Tito Mendoza (PAN)
4. Erland Betare (FRA)
5. Robert Allen (USA)
6. Carl Daniels (USA)
7. Howard Eastman (GB)
8. Cristian Sanavia (ITA)
9. Raymond Joval (HOL)
10. Ali Ennebati (FRA)
11. Bert Schenk (GER)
12. Bea Diallo (BEL)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champ: Winky Wright (USA)
1. Bronco McKart (USA)
2. Vacant
3. Alex Bunema (USA)
4. Angel Hernandez (USA)
5. Steve Roberts (GB)
6. Kassim Ouma (USA)
7. Nader Hamdan (AUSTRL)
8. Roman Karmazin (RUS)
9. J.C. Candelo (COL)
10. Michael Rask (DEN)
11. Mamadou Thiam (FRA)
12. Robert Frazier (USA)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Champ: Michele Piccirillo (ITA)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Thomas Damgaard (DEN)
4. Danny Perez (USA)
5. Hercules Kyvelos (CAN)
6. Rafael Pineda (COL)
7. Jose Rivera (USA)
8. Cory Spinks (USA)
9. James Hare (ENG)
10. Santiago Samaniego (PAN)
11. Antonio Diaz (MEX)
12. Hector Quiroz (MEX)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Champ: Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)
1. Ben Tackie (GHA)
2. Vacant
3. Arturo Gatti (USA)
4. Carlos Vilches (ARG)
5. Oktay Urkal (TUR)
6. Omar Weis (ARG)
7. James Leija (USA)
8. Micky Ward (USA)
9. Ray Oliveira (USA)
10. Teddy Reid (JAM)
11. Terronn Millett (USA)
12. Sharmba Mitchell (USA)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champ: Paul Spadafora (USA)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Juan Lazcano (USA)
4. Victoriano Sosa (DR)
5. Juan Gomez Trinidad (PR)
6. Angel Manfredy (USA)
7. Steve Johnston (USA)
8. Julian Wheeler (USA)
9. Leavander Johnson (USA)
10. Juan Valenzuela (MEX)
11. Dennis Holbaek (DEN)
12. Stefano Zoff (ITA)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champ: Steve Forbes (USA)
1. Vacant
2. David Santos (USA)
3. Philip Ndou (SA)
4. Jesus Chavez (USA)
5. Carlos Hernandez (USA)
6. Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)
7. Ernesto Zepeda (MEX)
8. Luis Lizarraga (USA)
9. Daniel Alicea (USA)
10. Orlando Salido (MEX)
11. Jorge Barrios (ARG)
12. Nate Campbell (USA)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champ: Johnny Tapia (USA)
1. Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)
2. Manuel Medina (MEX)
3. Oscar Larios (MEX)
4. Oscar Leon (PR)
5. Frankie Toledo (USA)
6. Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)
7. Victor Polo (COL)
8. Michael Brodie (ENG)
9. David Toledo (USA)
10. William Abelyan (USA)
11. Naseem Hamed (ENG)
12. Scott Harrison (SCOT)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champ: Manny Pacquaio (PHIL)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Jose Luis Valbuena (ARG)
4. F. Rakkiatgym (INDO)
5. Salim Medjkoune (FRA)
6. Enrique Sanchez (MEX)
7. Fernando Velardez (USA)
8. Paulie Ayala (USA)
9. Jorge Eliecer Julio (COL)
10. Nadel Hussein (AUSTRL)
11. Manou Fukashima (JAP)
12. David Donis (USA)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champ: Tim Austin (USA)
1. Rafael Marquez (MEX)
2. Vacant
3. Pete Frissina (USA)
4. Diego Morales (MEX)
5. Adan Vargas (MEX)
6. Genaro Garcia (MEX)
7. Mark Johnson (USA)
8. Roger Gonzalez (USA)
9. Hugo Dianzo (MEX)
10. Ratanachai Vorapin (THAI)
11. Toshiaki Nakajima (JAP)
12. Spend Abazi (DEN)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champ: Felix Machado (VEN)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Martin Castillo (MEX)
4. Saen Sor Ploenchit (THAI)
5. Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)
6. Ricardo Vargas (USA)
7. Samson 3K-Battery (THAI)
8. Luis Bolano (COL)
9. Mauricio Pastrana (COL)
10. Julio Coronel (COL)
11. Adonis Rivas (NIC)
12. Oscar Andrade (MEX)

FLYWEIGHTS
Champ: Irene Pacheco (COL)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Alejandro Montiel (MEX)
4. Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)
5. David Guerault (FRA)
6. Damaen Kelly (GB)
7. Wandee Chareon (THAI)
8. Hussein Hussein (LEB)
9. Mike Trejo (USA)
10. Randy Mangubat (PHIL)
11. Angel Priolo (COL)
12. Jason Booth (GB)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Champ: Ricardo Lopez (MEX)
1. Jose Burgos (MEX)
2. Alexander Sanchez (PR)
3. Bebis Mendoza (COL)
4. Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)
5. Noel Tunacao (PHIL)
6. Fahlan Sakreerin (THAI)
7. Wendyl Janiola (PHIL)
8. Jorge Arce (MEX)
9. Juan Keb Baas (MEX)
10. Eric Ortiz (MEX)
11. Celso Danggud (PHIL)
12. Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)

MINI FLYWEIGHTS
Champ: Roberto Leyva (MEX)
1. Vacant
2. Miguel Barrera (MEX)
3. Daniel Reyes (COL)
4. Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)
5. Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)
6. Noel Arambulet (VEN)
7. Jaewon Kim (KOR)
8. Joma Gamboa (PHIL)
9. Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)
10. Muhammad Rachman (INDO)
11. Eriberto Gejon (PHIL)
12. Isaac Bustos (MEX)

CLASSIC

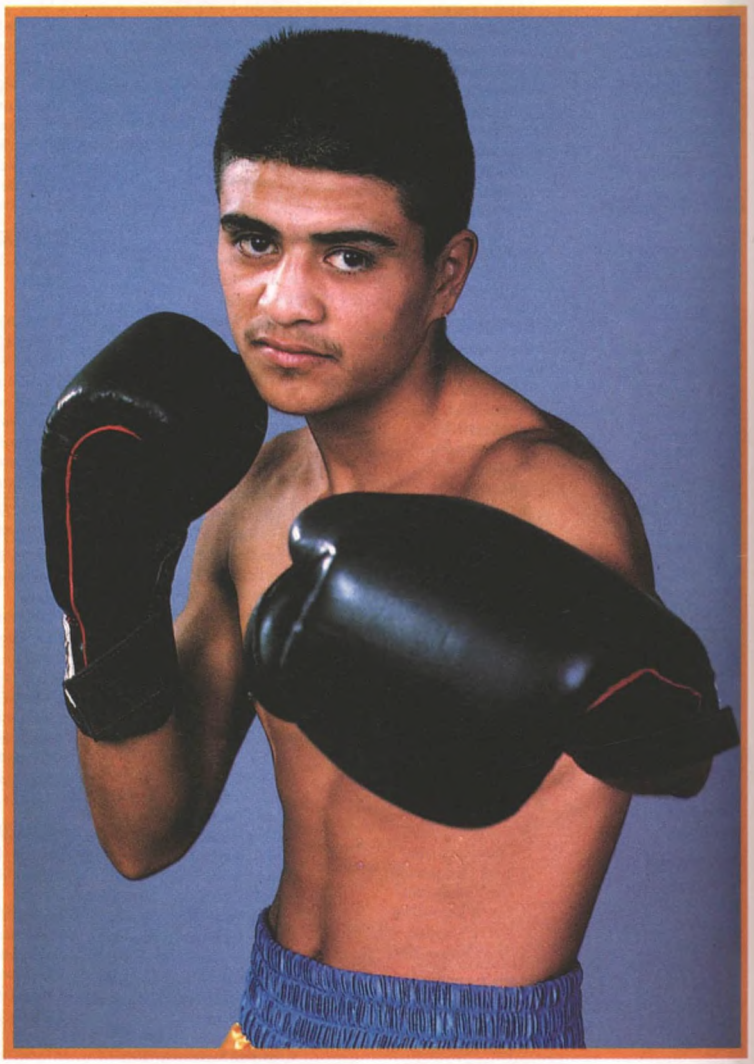
From THE RING, July 1990

MICHAEL CARBAJAL

THE FIRST MILLION-DOLLAR FLYWEIGHT?

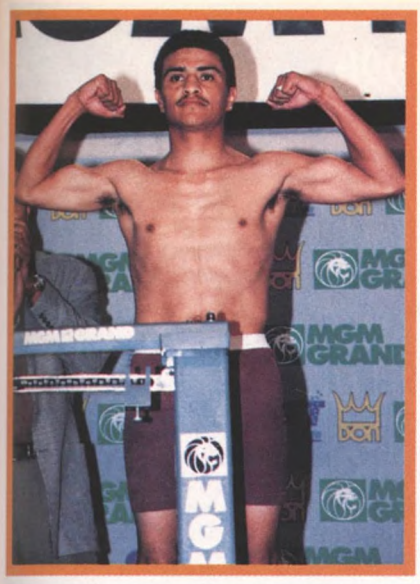
By Jeff Ryan

Junior flyweights are neat little guys, they really are. Oops, did we say little again? See, that's just the point, they get no respect. When they're doing battle, they can never look good; they can only look good for two little guys. The 108-pounders are boxing's version of midget wrestlers. During their bouts, half the crowd sits waiting for one of the munchkins to run through the referee's legs after he's broken a clinch. The other half sits wondering what they're going to be when they grow up.



Carbajal wanted to set a new standard, in terms of money and prestige, for 108-pounders in the United States. Not taken very seriously by American fans, the smaller weight classes were boxing's version of midget wrestling.

One reason the junior flyweights get no recognition is because they're hidden between the flyweights and strawweights. Flyweights weigh 112 pounds. Strawweights weigh 105. Junior flyweights sneak in at 108. But don't mistake the junior flyweight class for the *mini* flyweight class, which is the IBF's name for the strawweight class. Are you confused? So are most people. And what do people usually do when something confuses them? That's right, they try to ignore it.



Spaghetti, lasagna, a few Taco Bell stops—Carbajal broke the rules when it came to being a junior flyweight. Another standard he defied was that he stood 5'5½", while the average junior fly was about 5'1".

Even the 108-pound *champions* get no respect. Do you even know who Muangshai Kittikasem is? No, he doesn't spin the hits on "Thai Top 40." He's the IBF junior flyweight titlist. His counterparts on the throne are Humberto Gonzales (WBC) and Yuh Myung Woo (WBA). Who? No, Woo. Talk about not being a household name. There's toiling in obscurity and then there's being one of *these* guys. It's just a fact of life that the champions of any division below bantamweight are perceived the way writer/editor Frank Deford once said sports scribes are viewed in the field of journalism: As the world's tallest midgets.

Michael Carbajal hopes to be different. In many ways, he already is. For starters, he's 5'5½", and unlike most junior flys, he meets the height requirement for the rides at Disneyland. In a division where the average warrior stands about 5'1", Carbajal, at times, looks like Kareem Abdul-Jabbar wearing lifts. As if that's not enough of an unfair advantage, he's also blessed with the ability to eat anything he wants—yes, *anything*—and never climb more than four pounds above his fighting weight.

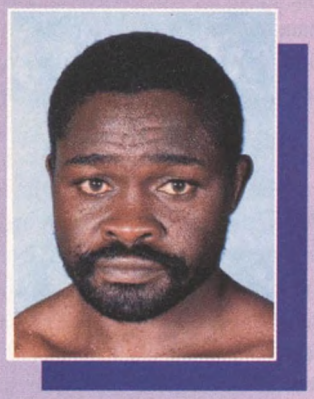
"I love Italian and Mexican food," said the hungry Carbajal, whose record is 12-0, with seven opponents and three Taco Bells kayoed along the way. "Lasagna, spaghetti, green chilis, red chilis, beans, tacos, tostadas, tortillas ... " Whoa, slow down, Michael. Two of your spar mates just put on 10 pounds *reading* this.

Carbajal is also different when it comes to television exposure. He has some. For years the three commercial television networks, ABC, NBC, and CBS, have been junior-fly swatters. Until ABC aired Carbajal's one-round kayo of Pedro Espinoza in 1989, only one 108-pound bout had ever aired on commercial TV (the Hilario Zapata-Joey Olivo WBC title fight in 1981). But if ABC likes the 22-year-old Carbajal, NBC absolutely adores him. Last November, The Peacock Network signed him to a $700,000, three-fight deal. The second bout will be his challenge of Kittikasem on May 13.

"We really enjoy Carbajal," said Doug Kelly, a sports media representative for NBC. "His power is appealing. And he's

Throughout the history of televised boxing, the junior fly class was a fly on the wall of boxing, never noticed. That changed with Carbajal's first-round knockout of Pedro Espinoza (pictured), aired on ABC. It was Carbajal's fourth pro fight.

THE RING RATINGS, July 1990



Azumah Nelson

HEAVYWEIGHTS
1. **Buster Douglas,** Columbus, OH
2. **Mike Tyson,** Catskill, NY
3. **Evander Holyfield,** Atlanta, GA
4. **Michael Dokes,** Las Vegas, NV
5. **Tim Witherspoon,** Philadelphia, PA
6. **Francesco Damiani,** Italy
7. **Carl Williams,** White Plains, NY
8. **Razor Ruddock,** Canada
9. **Gary Mason,** England
10. **Tony Tucker,** Big Oaks, CA

CRUISERWEIGHTS
1. **Carlos DeLeon,** Puerto Rico
2. **Taoufik Belbouli,** France
3. **Robert Daniels,** Miami, FL
4. **Dwight Muhammad Qawi,** Cherry Hill, NJ
5. **Glenn McCrory,** England
6. **Nate Miller,** Philadelphia, PA
7. **Anaclet Wamba,** France
8. **Johnny Nelson,** England
9. **James Warring,** Miami, FL
10. **Boone Pultz,** Tyler, TX

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
1. **Virgil Hill,** Las Vegas, NV
2. **Prince Charles Williams,** Mansfield, OH
3. **Michael Moorer,** Detroit, MI
4. **Jeff Harding,** Australia
5. **Dennis Andries,** Detroit, MI
6. **Don Lalonde,** Canada
7. **Leslie Stewart,** Trinidad & Tobago
8. **Graciano Rocchigiani,** Germany
9. **Joe Lasisi,** Nigeria
10. **Eric Nicoletta,** France

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
1. **Ray Leonard,** Potomac, MD
2. **Thomas Hearns,** Las Vegas, NV
3. **Lindell Holmes,** Detroit, MI
4. **In Chul Baek,** South Korea
5. **Christophe Tiozzo,** France
6. **Antoine Byrd,** Los Angeles, CA
7. **Frank Tate,** Houston, TX
8. **Dario Matteoni,** Argentina
9. **James Kinchen,** San Diego, CA
10. **Victor Cordova,** Panama

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
1. **Michael Nunn,** Los Angeles, CA
2. **Sumbu Kalambay,** Italy
3. **Mike McCallum,** Jamaica
4. **Roberto Duran,** Miami, FL
5. **Iran Barkley,** Bronx, NY
6. **Michael Watson,** England
7. **Herol Graham,** England
8. **Nigel Benn,** England
9. **Doug DeWitt,** Yonkers, NY
10. **Steve Collins,** Brockton, MA

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
1. **Julian Jackson,** Virgin Islands
2. **John Mugabi,** Tampa. FL
3. **Gianfranco Rosi,** Italy
4. **John David Jackson,** Tucson, AZ
5. **Terry Norris,** Campo, CA
6. **Rene Jacquot,** France
7. **Donald Curry,** Fort Worth, TX
8. **Darrin Van Horn,** Lexington, KY
9. **Chris Pyatt,** England
10. **Jorge Castro,** Argentina

WELTERWEIGHTS
1. **Marlon Starling,** South Windsor, CT
2. **Simon Brown,** Washington, D.C.
3. **Mark Breland,** Brooklyn, NY
4. **Buddy McGirt,** Brentwood, NY
5. **Tyrone Trice,** Detroit, MI
6. **Maurice Blocker,** Washington, D.C.
7. **Glenwood Brown,** Plainfield, NJ
8. **Aaron Davis,** Bronx, NY
9. **Antoine Fernandez,** France
10. **Genaro Leon,** Mexico

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
1. **Julio Cesar Chavez,** Mexico
2. **Meldrick Taylor,** Philadelphia, PA
3. **Juan Coggi,** Argentina
4. **Roger Mayweather,** Las Vegas, NV
5. **Hector Camacho,** Big Cypress, FL
6. **Loreto Garza,** Sacramento, CA
7. **Frankie Randall,** Morristown, TN
8. **Louie Lomeli,** Melrose Park, IL
9. **Santos Cardona,** New York, NY
10. **Sammy Fuentes,** Puerto Rico

LIGHTWEIGHTS
1. **Pernell Whitaker,** Norfolk, VA
2. **Edwin Rosario,** Puerto Rico
3. **Tracy Spann,** Plainfield, NJ
4. **Freddie Pendleton,** Miami, FL
5. **Greg Haugen,** Henderson, NV
6. **John Duplessis,** New Orleans, LA
7. **David Gonzalez,** San Jose, CA
8. **Poli Diaz,** Spain
9. **Chil Sung Chun,** South Korea
10. **Iwao Otomo,** Japan

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
1. **Azumah Nelson,** Ghana
2. **John-John Molina,** Puerto Rico
3. **Brian Mitchell,** South Africa
4. **Jeff Fenech,** Australia
5. **Tony Lopez,** Sacramento, CA
6. **Genaro Hernandez,** Los Angeles, CA
7. **Bernard Taylor,** Knoxville, TN
8. **Juan LaPorte,** New York, NY
9. **Mario Martinez,** Mexico
10. **Joey Gamache,** Lewiston, ME

FEATHERWEIGHTS
1. **Antonio Esparragoza,** Venezuela
2. **Jeff Fenech,** Australia
3. **Jorge Paez,** Mexico
4. **Louie Espinoza,** Phoenix, AZ
5. **Troy Dorsey,** Dallas, TX
6. **Maurizio Stecca,** Italy
7. **Pee Wee Parker,** Houston, TX
8. **Marco Villasana,** Mexico
9. **Ricardo Cepeda,** Bronx, NY
10. **Paul Hodkinson,** England

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
1. **Daniel Zaragosa,** Mexico
2. **Jesus Salud,** San Diego, CA
3. **Seung Hoon Lee,** South Korea
4. **Juan Jose Estrada,** Mexico
5. **Welcome Ncita,** South Africa
6. **Kenny Mitchell,** Houston, TX
7. **Pedro Decima,** Argentina
8. **Paul Banke,** Quail Valley, CA
9. **Jesse Benavides,** Corpus Christi, TX
10. **Jemal Hinton,** District Heights, MD

BANTAMWEIGHTS
1. **Raul Perez,** Mexico
2. **Orlando Canizales,** Laredo, TX
3. **Luisito Espinosa,** Philippines
4. **Gerardo Martinez,** San Jose, CA
5. **Israel Contreras,** Venezuela
6. **Kaokor Galaxy,** Thailand
7. **Wilfredo Vasquez,** Puerto Rico
8. **Pepillo Valdez,** Mexico
9. **Hurley Snead,** Detroit, MI
10. **Billy Hardy,** England

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
1. **Khaosai Galaxy,** Thailand
2. **Moon Sung Kil,** South Korea
3. **Nana Konadu,** Ghana
4. **Gilberto Roman,** Mexico
5. **Jose Ruiz,** Puerto Rico
6. **Juan Polo,** Colombia
7. **Thanomsak Sithbaobey,** Thailand
8. **Elly Pical,** Indonesia
9. **Robert Quiroga,** San Antonio. TX
10. **Yong Heun Lee,** England

FLYWEIGHTS
1. **Sot Chitalada,** Thailand
2. **Yul Woo Lee,** South Korea
3. **Dave McAuley,** Korea
4. **Jung-Koo Chang,** Korea
5. **Jesus Rojas,** Venezuela
6. **Javier Lucas,** Mexico
7. **Richard Clarke,** Jamaica
8. **Leopard Tamakuma,** Japan
9. **Romy Navarette,** Philippines
10. **Yong Kang Kim,** South Korea

not afraid to stick his nose in the middle of the action. He may get his nose whomped a bit, but he always whomps the other guy four times in return."

Bob Arum, Carbajal's promoter, has caused more than a few double takes while lavishing praise on his little big man.

"Michael will be the first junior flyweight to earn $1-million for one fight," he said. "He has the charisma to popularize the division."

"My goal is to change around the

Bob Arum, Carbajal's promoter, had big plans for his tiny man. "Michael will be the first junior flyweight to earn $1-million for one fight," Arum predicted. "He has the charisma to popularize the division."

image of the little guys," Carbajal added. "People will start to learn that we can fight as good as big guys, and with power, too. We put up more exciting fights than the big guys because we're more active. We throw a lot more punches."

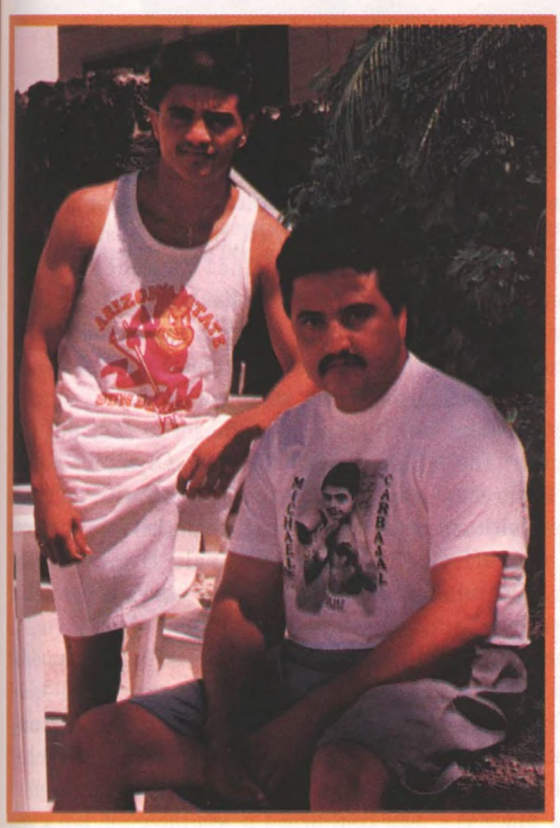
Carbajal's odyssey toward what he hopes will be the eventual capturing of titles in four divisions—if the tacos eventually stick to him—began 16 years ago in Phoenix. In those days, the Carbajals' idea of family bonding was to sit ringside together and duck flying mouthpieces. Manuel Carbajal, an Arizona Golden Gloves champion in the '40s, took his sons Danny, Alex, and little Michael (make that *littler* Michael) to every local pro or amateur card he could find. (Danny and Alex boxed as amateurs, as does the youngest Carbajal, 19-year-old Angel.)

While many six-year-olds might have been frightened by the sight of blood or the sound a man makes when a left hook is buried into his ribcage, to Michael, this stuff sure beat the hell out of Kermit the Frog trying to wrestle a Fig Newton away from The Cookie Monster on *Sesame Street*. After a few prelims, he wasn't begging his father to take him home, but to let him start punching people in the mouth himself.

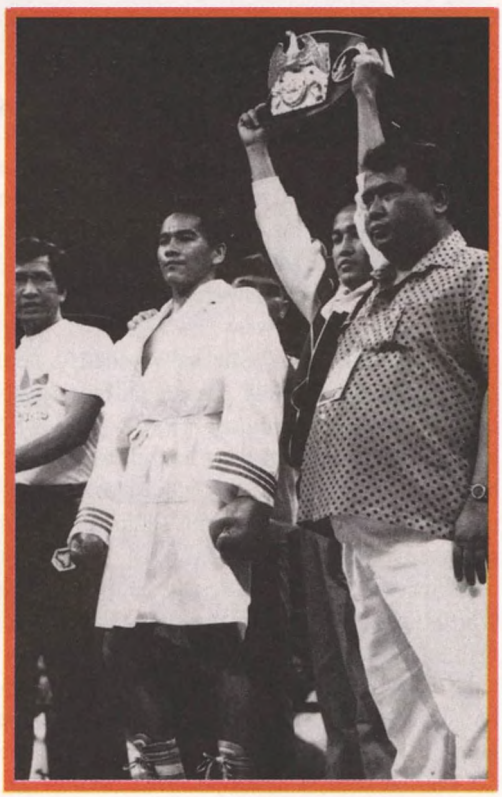
Though he was told he'd have to wait a few years, his desire never waned. By the time he was nine, Carbajal was buying boxing magazines, opening them up to the pages of the champions, and copying pictures of their title belts on a piece of paper. He'd then cut out the belts and wear them around his waist as he paraded around the house.

"Sometimes we'd have little bouts in the backyard," said Danny, who now serves as his brother's manager and trainer. "Michael and the other neighborhood kids would wear 20-ounce gloves and they'd box for a cardboard belt we had that said 'WORLD CHAMPION' on it."

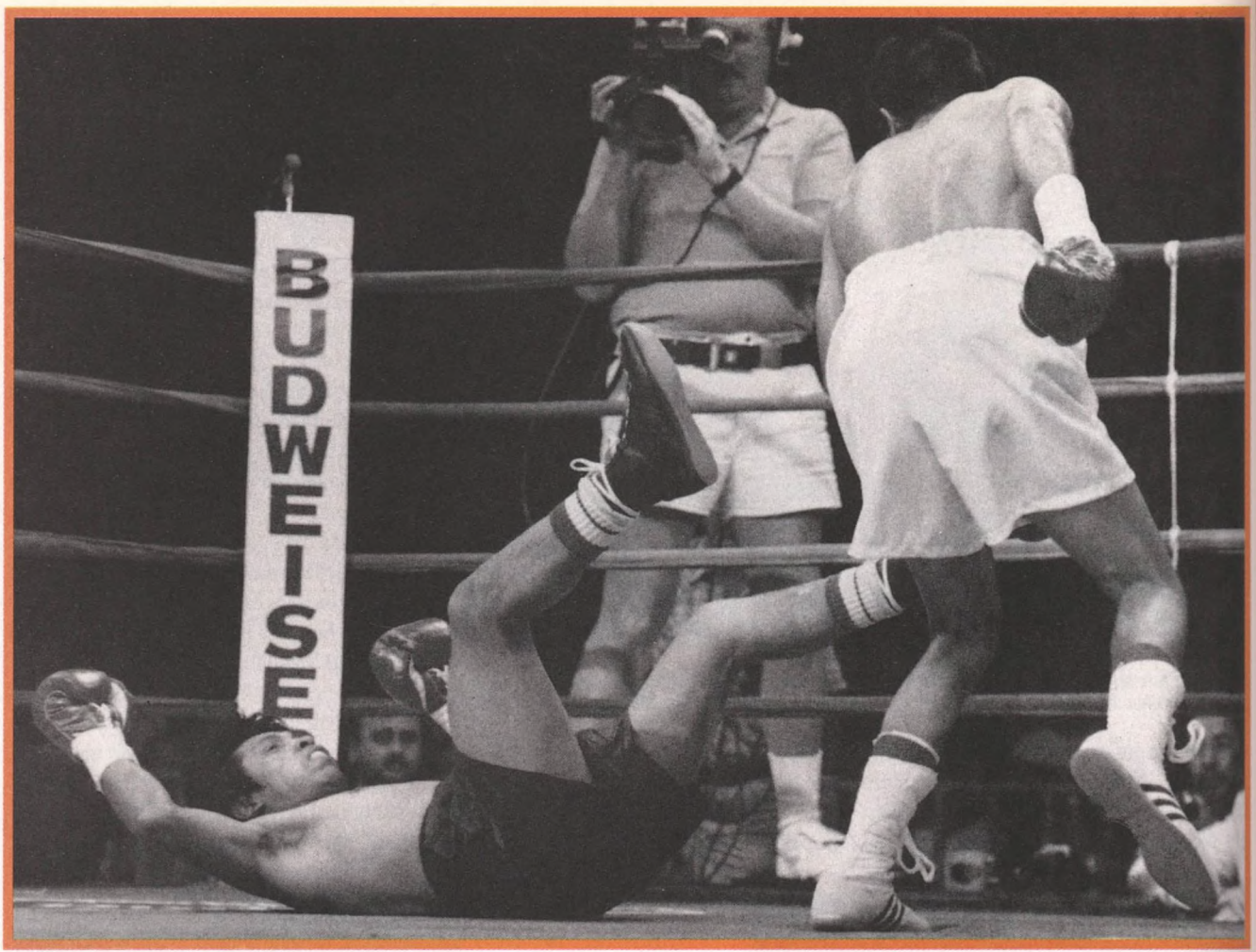
Though both Danny and Alex had learned firsthand what a longshot a successful fighting career is, they never discouraged their young brother from his pursuits. Better that he fight in the backyard, they figured, than in the frontyard.



Some of Carbajal's first fights came against Danny Carbajal, who trained and managed his younger brother's pro career. The brothers would hold backyard bouts, with the winner awarded a cardboard belt that said "WORLD CHAMPION" on it.



Carbajal's target was IBF 108-pound beltholder Muangshai Kittikasem, an obscure fighter from Thailand with whom even many hardcore fight fans were not familiar. Carbajal was preparing to go into his title bout without having seen any tapes of Kittikasem.



Carbajal's two-fisted punching power made him a marketable fighter. A silver medalist at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, Carbajal scored an impressive first-round knockout of Silviano Perez in his home debut in Phoenix, Arizona.

For at the time, the Carbajals' 9th Street neighborhood, and the surrounding areas, like Central Park, and Garfield, and the Duppa Villa projects, were becoming hotbeds of gang activity.

"It was really bad," Michael recalled. "The gangs were mainly Hispanic. They called themselves *cholos*. They wore baggy clothes and had their hair slicked back, and had bandanas that almost covered their eyes. They got into fights all over the place."

When Carbajal was 13, any temptation he may have had to run the streets with the *cholos* was driven from his mind with one blast of gunfire. He was at the home of one of Alex's friends, a gang member, when suddenly there was a commotion outside. Carbajal raced from the house to see Alex's friend laying on the sidewalk, the victim of a drive-by shooting by a rival gang.

"It was terrible," he said. "They were pumping his heart to revive him, but he ended up dying."

A year later, Carbajal, all 65 pounds of him, had his first amateur bout. He lost a decision, but displayed an intensity that neither Danny nor Alex ever seemed to possess in their fistic careers.

"He showed me a lot of determination and a lot of instinct," said Danny. "The other kid had more experience, but in the third round, Michael connected with a right hand and made the kid back off. Before I could even yell to him, Michael *ran* after the kid. No style or anything, he just ran. Right after he lost, he said, 'I wanna fight him again.' I could see how much he wanted to be a fighter."

So impressed was Danny that he spent the next week turning the family garage into Gleason's Gym West. The place is still as blue-collar as the day it was finished, with turnbuckles made of rags and a ring floor consisting of layers of carpeting. Michael still trains there regularly, though he shifts training camp to the sparkling confines of Phoenix's La-Mancha Athletic Club and Resort Hotel when it's time to spar.

Says the unpretentious Carbajal, "I like it better in the garage."

It takes an awful lot to faze this kid. Carbajal left the 1988 Olympics with a silver medal, and despite the fact that many observers thought he won his bout with Bulgaria's Ivalo Hristov in the finals, to this day, he hasn't experienced a moment of regret.

"I thought I won the fight," he said matter-of-factly, "but it was real close. I wasn't disappointed to where it discouraged me or anything. It wasn't a real bad decision like [teammate] Roy Jones got. I was confident I'd win the gold, but I was happy with the silver. Besides, being a professional world champion was always my goal."

Representing the United States, Carbajal nearly won a gold medal at Seoul. He didn't dwell on his controversial decision loss, however, because winning a professional world title was what always mattered most to him.

After just 14 months as a pro, and before any of his '88 Seoul brothers get their shots, he'll now have the chance to fulfill that goal. Ironically, Carbajal's unprecedented exposure at junior flyweight is actually working against him for the first time. Because he has been seen on TV as both an Olympian and a pro, the camp of Kittikasem has quite a few tapes to study in preparation. The Carbajals, on the other hand, will be entering the bout without ever having seen the champion throw a punch.

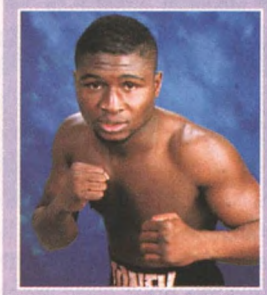
"It concerns me," admitted Danny, "because we can't work on any certain strategy. So we're working on everything. When they get in the ring, Michael will have to adapt right away. He'll have to see how the other guy commits himself, where he leaves openings. He'll have to find a weakness and figure things quickly."

For a kid who figured out what he wanted to be when he was six years old, figured out how to wear a title belt when he was nine, and figured out how to avoid the *cholos* on the Phoenix streets and the prejudices against little guys in the ring, how difficult can that be? ■

THE RING, July 1990

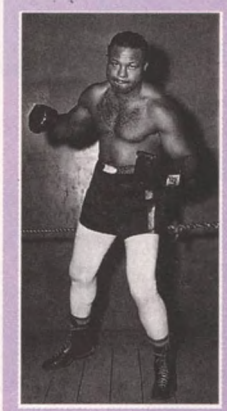
The Cover: Evander Holyfield wasn't willing to patiently wait for a shot at the heavyweight champion Buster Douglas, who had just shocked the world with his stunning 10th-round knockout of previously indestructible Mike Tyson. Holyfield penned a piece in THE RING titled, "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," explaining why he should be next in line for a title shot.

Before Lights Out: Before James Toney earned the nickname "Lights Out," he was a 21-year-old prospect looking for his place in the middleweight division. Toney had a 16-0 (11) record when he was featured in the "New Faces" section. Toney went on to become the IBF middleweight and super middleweight titlist in the early-1990s.



New York Welter Web: As Aaron "Superman" Davis (pictured), James "Buddy" McGirt, and Glenwood "The Real Beast" Brown rose through the welterweight ratings, the trio posed an interesting dilemma for Madison Square Garden boxing, which promoted all three: Was it possible for one promoter to keep three men at the same weight class with the same goals happy?

Battle Of The Legends: If light heavyweight legends Archie Moore (pictured) and Bob Foster ever met in their primes, who would have won? That was the question posed to Bobby Cassidy, Bill Mazer, and Don Dunphy. Mazer and Dunphy agreed Moore would have knocked out Foster, but Cassidy saw Foster as an early-round knockout victor.



Fighter Of The Month: Mark Breland easily defended the WBA welterweight title with a smashing third-round stoppage of Englishman Lloyd Honeyghan in London. Breland dropped Honeyghan six times during the bout, before the referee stopped the fight at 2:15 of the third round.

THE A, B, C & DEAS OF BOXING

By Tommy Deas

DEFENDING THE UPPERCUT

You've watched the world's best fighters and read about them in this magazine, and now you want to give boxing a try, or at least learn a little more about the mechanics of the sport. Welcome to THE RING'S bi-monthly instructional feature on boxing's basics. Bear in mind, the techniques described here are just one of many approaches to the Sweet Science. The most important thing is to find a good coach and follow his instructions. All instructions on these pages are geared for an orthodox, or right-handed, stance. If you are left-handed, merely turn everything around.

The first time you find yourself on the receiving end of a solid uppercut, you will discover that it is an experience you'll want to avoid again. The uppercut is an effective weapon in many situations, especially when fighting at close quarters or when facing a shorter opponent. If you intend to spend any time fighting on the inside, or moving forward to cut the distance between you and your opponent, you will want to be able to minimize his ability to land this punch.

Unlike the other basic punches—the jab, right cross, and left hook—the uppercut often arrives unseen, especially when thrown on the inside. Defending the other punches is more a matter of see-and-react than defending the uppercut. Slipping or blocking jabs, crosses, and hooks is mostly a matter of seeing what's coming, recognizing it, and taking appropriate action to avoid the blows. Avoiding uppercuts is more a matter of instinct, knowing when you are in position for your opponent to throw the punch and making yourself less vulnerable.

If your opponent attempts an uppercut from long range, you should be able to see it coming well in time to slide your head to either side, out of harm's way. It's when you get in closer that you need

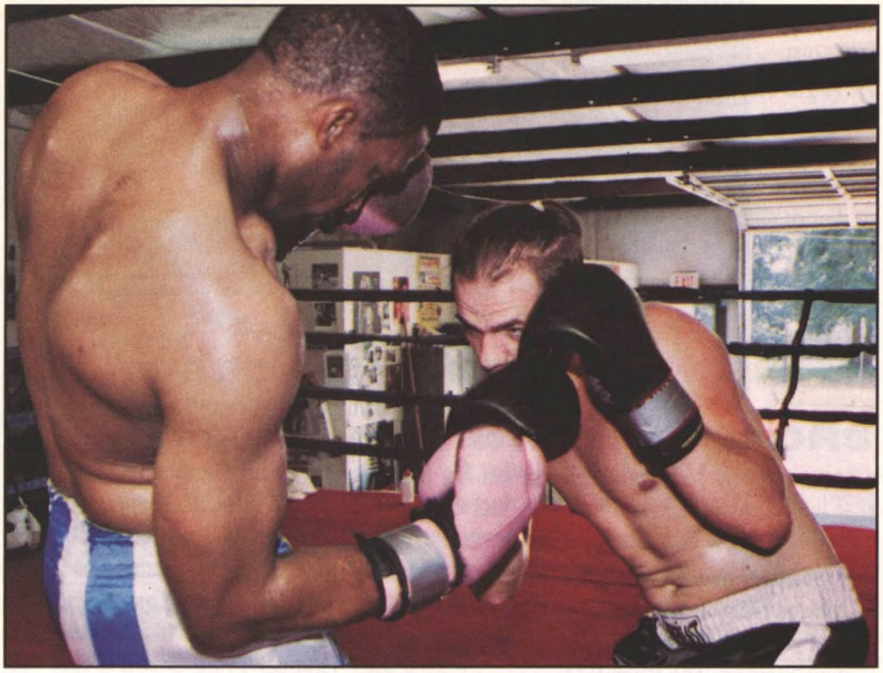
PHOTOS BY SPARROW ESTES

Junior middleweight Brad Thompson demonstrates against cruiserweight Marcus McGee both the right and the wrong posture for defending the uppercut when moving inside. The correct method involves bending at the knees (left), while bending at the waist (right) leaves Thompson off-balance and open to the punch.

to be most aware of the danger of this weapon. You are most vulnerable to the uppercut at mid-range, when you aren't too far outside for your opponent to safely reach with an uppercut, but you haven't gotten close enough to make body contact. Any time you try to work your way inside your opponent's reach, you need to be wary.

The first important element to defending an uppercut is posture. The more you lean forward at the waist, the more you make yourself a target for the uppercut. Leaning too far forward puts your head out front as the most available target. If your head sticks out in front of your torso, you don't have many options available to deal with the uppercut.

As you get closer to your opponent, it is better to get lower, but this must be done correctly to keep from becoming an easy target. Proper boxing posture is best achieved by bending at the knees, not at the waist. Bending at the waist not only makes you an easier target, it also takes away your punching leverage and balance. By bending at the knees, you are harder to hit and in better position to throw your own punches.



It just takes a simple, subtle glove movement to block the uppercut. When you sense that an uppercut might be coming, sliding the right glove from the cheek to underneath the chin, as Thompson does here, should prevent your opponent's punch from landing.

Bend your knees like you are sitting down, keeping your weight on your back foot, and lean forward slightly at the waist. The best rule of thumb is to never let your head get in front of your left foot. If it does, you are entering the danger zone and need to make a quick adjustment. If you keep your chin down and don't expose your head by leaning too far forward, you will be harder to reach with an uppercut.

Practice proper posture while shadowboxing in front of a mirror. Turn sideways and keep an eye on the angle of your body as you get lower. Pay attention to your posture and learn to get a feel for the times when you are bending too much at the waist and not enough at the knees. As you become more aware of your posture, you will be able to recognize your mistakes in the heat of battle without the benefit of a mirror.

The other important element of avoiding your opponent's uppercuts is the position of your body in relation to his. You want to get in close without smothering your own punches. Done properly, you can give yourself room to operate on the inside without giving your foe enough room to land an effective uppercut.

As you get closer to your opponent, try to plant your lead foot somewhere in between his feet, putting your left knee in between his knees. Bend your knees and keep a slightly forward lean at the waist, and your head will fall somewhere in the area of his chest. This doesn't allow your opponent room to get proper leverage on his uppercuts. If your front foot is between his feet and your head is in close to his chest, your opponent will have difficulty getting his arms in position to aim an uppercut toward the target, and he will not be able to roll his shoulders in position to generate power. If you keep your front foot in this position on the inside, you will also find that you will be able to work your own inside punches effectively while taking away an important weapon.

You will be able to practice this position easily on the heavy-bag. Work in close to the bag, and keep stepping your left foot under it. Your knee should stay right under the edge of the part of the bag that is closest to you. As the bag sways, adjust your position and keep placing your left foot under it. Make sure you also keep your head in position, right in front of the bag or even resting with your forehead on it. Do not lean back and get in the habit of giving your opponent the punching room he needs to generate leverage. As always, keep your chin tucked in tight.

You can also block an uppercut. The blocking motion is a simple matter of sliding your right glove from your right cheek under your chin, in the path of the incoming punch. The key is recognizing when to do this. If you are working at close range, you may not see an uppercut coming until it is too late. Instead, you need to stay aware of where your opponent's gloves are to anticipate what he is doing. If you feel his glove arcing downward under your gloves, you can guess that he's starting to throw an uppercut. The blocking motion is short and quick, so you don't need a lot of advance warning to make this defensive move.

The biggest mistake most beginners make in trying to block an uppercut is to reach out for it. If the punch is going to land, it will come to you, so you only need to cover the target area to fend off the blow. When you reach for an incoming punch, you leave yourself open for a followup punch, and you also take your hand out of position to throw your own counterpunch.

Practice these techniques while shadowboxing in front of the mirror, then work with a gym mate in shadowboxing to work them against a live opponent. Start slowly and get used to practicing the moves, then pick up speed once you feel comfortable with what you're doing. As with everything else in boxing, it will become more natural the more you do it.

Next: Countering the jab. ■

Tommy Deas is a sportswriter for the Tuscaloosa (Alabama) News and a trainer of professional and amateur boxers.

COME OUT WRITING

Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Or e-mail letters to comeoutwriting@yahoo.com. E-mailed letters will include the writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided.

THE ZOO CREW

Kostya Tszyu had just completed a shutout victory over Ben Tackie, and I could already hear the critics crying that he's unexciting and boring. For crying out loud, what more does Tszyu have to do? He produces spectacular knockouts, and people call him a one-dimensional slugger. He produces a magnificent and clinical display of boxing against a tough, dangerous challenger who has never been knocked down, and people call him boring. When is Kostya going to get the respect he deserves? One of the few unified champions in boxing, Tszyu exhibits class, both inside and outside the ring. At the end of his career, Kostya will be judged as one of the finest junior welterweights of all-time, if not the greatest.

So give the "Thunder From Down Under" the respect he deserves. Tszyu is one of the best around, pound-for-pound, and a great ambassador for the sport of boxing.

PAUL BARRO
Sydney, Australia

What does a great champion have to do to prove himself? When Kostya Tsyzu won over Julio Chavez, everyone said he was beating up an old man, and gave him no credit for the victory. When Tsyzu later lifted the WBA 140-pound title from Sharmba Mitchell, the excuse was that Sharmba was injured and could not fight at his peak. Again no credit was given. Finally, in two brutal rounds Tsyzu decimated Zab "Super" Judah to become THE RING champion, but a controversial stoppage allowed an eyebrow or two to be raised about the outcome. It seemed that no matter whom he beat, there was always a lingering doubt about his deservedness.

Most recently, Tsyzu defended his undisputed belt against the tough Ghanaian warrior Ben Tackie. Not only did Tsyzu win every single round, he displayed patient boxing skills that stopped Tackie from ever getting into a position where could come close to winning. The champion dominated the fight from beginning to end, proving again that his standing as one of the best in the world is not a fluke; it's a fact.

ALEX HUTCHINSON
Englewood, FL

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Junior welterweight champion Kostya Tszyu smacks Ben Tackie in the face with a jab en route to a one-sided decision victory. Readers Paul Barro and Alex Hutchinson write to express their appreciation for Tszyu and their frustration with the lack of respect he gets from many quarters despite everything he's accomplished.

ONE FOR THE AGES

Arturo Gatti and Micky Ward were expected to deliver an electrifying, seesaw battle for the ages. Going in, I mistakenly thought expectations were *too* high. There was no doubt in my mind that both of these guys are warriors in every sense of the word, but I thought Gatti would dominate with boxing skills and play it safe. Thank God I was wrong. That was one of the greatest fights I've ever seen. I couldn't fully appreciate it at first because I was rooting too hard for Gatti, but I've watched it many times since then, and will continue to watch it until I memorize each exchange like lines from my favorite movie.

It was a classic battle, the type of fight where it doesn't matter that the referee did a terrible job, it doesn't matter that it wasn't a championship fight, and it doesn't even matter who won. Arturo Gatti and

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Arturo Gatti slings a right at Micky Ward during their incredibly exciting fight, which Ward won via close decision. Readers Brian Wagner and Paul M. Sotak are among the many fans who wrote to articulate how much they appreciated the amazing war the pair staged in May.

Micky Ward are now immortal sports heroes of mine. I'm 22 now, and Barrera-Morales and Gatti-Ward are fights that I'll still be talking about when I'm an old man. Boxing still needs a great deal of reform, but there is no lack of talent or great matchups. It's a great time to be a fight fan.

BRIAN WAGNER
Green Brook, NJ

Arturo Gatti and Micky Ward are the heart and soul of boxing. My heart was pounding so much during the fight, I don't think I can stand a rematch, and I'm only 27! Thank you, Arturo and Micky. Yours was the best fight I ever had the honor to watch.

PAUL M. SOTACK
Buffalo, NY

CONN JOB

It's hard to believe that you would rank Billy Conn behind Jimmy Bivins and Michael Spinks in "The 20 Greatest Light Heavyweights Of All-Time" (September '02). Conn was the greatest light heavyweight of them all, and would have been heavyweight champion when he fought Joe Louis if the match had been scheduled for 12 rounds.

Another hard thing to fathom is your ranking of Gene Tunney, who defeated Jack Dempsey twice, as number 18. Unbelievable!

SAM FELDMAN
Sherman Oaks, CA

THE NEW BRUNO

Hasim Rahman may need to retire. This stark assessment was never more apparent than during Rahman's pathetic attempt to defeat 39-year-old Evander Holyfield. It was most telling that for seven rounds he was totally unable to hurt Evander. That the bout was stopped due to the large bump on his head was not, of course, Hasim's fault. But, like Frank Bruno, Rahman is literally too nice a guy. A gentleman. And that is precisely his greatest weakness in the ring. He lacks the true killer instinct and the ability to drive himself, as Holyfield and Tyson do, beyond the expected. Maybe he needs to talk to Teddy Atlas. This wizard of ring psychology might be able to help Rahman discover his own inner warrior. Otherwise, Hasim must retire.

JOE HAMMELL
Waynesboro, PA

THE WRONG COLORS

I am a faithful fan of the sport of boxing and a longtime reader of THE RING. Therefore, I feel it is my duty to warn every fighter and every betting fan about a growing and harsh reality: Wearing red, white, and blue trunks will get you beaten!

You think I'm nuts? What was Felix Trinidad wearing during his thrashing at the hands of Bernard Hopkins? What did Shane Mosley gallop into the ring wearing in his loss to Vernon Forrest? What did Randall Bailey wear in his knockout loss to Diobelys Hurtado? What was Hasim Rahman wearing when he was crushed by a Lennox Lewis right hand?

Now, I take nothing away from Lewis, Hopkins, Forrest, or Hurtado, but I think the evidence will show that there's something eerie about those red, white, and blue trunks. Perhaps, it can be traced back to *Rocky IV*. Remember that Apollo Creed fella, who was also featured in *Rocky, Rocky II,* and *Rocky III*? He got kayoed—in fact killed off—wearing red, white, and blue.

JOHN IVERSON
New York, NY ■

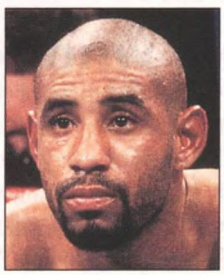
PHOTO BY STEVE MATTEO/HBO

Most fans probably think it was Diobelys Hurtado's bodyshots that kayoed Randall Bailey (right). But reader John Iverson has a different theory as to the reason for his demise, as well as the recent defeats of several other well-known fighters.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

CORRALES' COMEBACK: "THE MOTIVATION IS FLOYD"



Corrales: Back from jail in September

On Sunday, June 2, **Diego Corrales** left the prison walls in Tracy, California, that had been his home for 15 months. On Monday, June 3, Chapter Two of the former IBF junior lightweight titlist's boxing career began.

One day out of jail, Corrales climbed inside a boxing ring at his stepfather's gym in Sacramento and started sparring. The results weren't bad, considering that "Chico" hadn't been able to box at all while serving his time for domestic violence.

"I think my sparring was good, depending on what you were looking at," said the 24-year-old Corrales. "There was quite a bit of ring rust, but you expect that. Things were coming together in pieces. At first I had the movement, but the punches weren't following. Then I'd throw a punch, but I wouldn't move my head. But overall, I felt good. After a few rounds, I didn't want to stop."

And as his comeback begins, Corrales doesn't want to take it easy, either. His first fight will probably be in September, but new manager **James Prince** said that it definitely won't be an HBO fight, and that it will probably be against a mid-range opponent. Corrales doesn't intend for it to stay that way for long.

"Low-level, mid-range—that's not what you expect of Chico," Corrales said. "I need some decent competition. As soon as I feel ready, I want to fight for the title. I don't know yet if it will be at 135 pounds or 140; I'll have to see where I feel more comfortable. But if I'm physically able, it will be 135, because of who the champion is there. The motivation is **Floyd [Mayweather]**."

Mayweather, of course, is the man who handed Corrales his only loss, in Chico's last fight before going to jail. Corrales is still upset that his stepfather, **Ray Woods**, stopped the fight in the 10th round, because the lanky powerhouse felt he still had a puncher's chance. He and Woods have talked through their differences, and the man Corrales calls "Dad" will remain in the corner, along with co-trainer **Kenny Adams**. But Chico hungers for a chance to prove that the man who fought Mayweather in January '01 was not the real Diego Corrales.

Prince, who manages both men, says he won't stand in the way.

"I'm going to have to be behind whatever they want," Prince said. "My job is just to make sure they both get paid properly. For me, it's not personal. It's a business."

And Corrales is back in business, provided he stays out of trouble. He says that won't be a problem, and that doing time has helped him, as a person and as a boxer.

"It definitely grounded me," said Corrales, in slight contradiction to the fact that he did three months more than the minimum sentence because, he admits, he wasn't always a compliant prisoner. "You don't want to forget where you came from, but when you make it, you do forget. Now I've been reminded. When you go through what I've gone through, it can make you a little bitter. It makes you angry. But you have to channel that. For me, it will add a little fuel. I intend to get back to where I was, and then some."

LISTEN UP

The long-discussed featherweight bout between **Naseem Hamed** and **Johnny Tapia** may be close to happening. HBO has September 21 set aside, but the contracts were still being hammered out as we went to press. "If we get it finalized," said HBO Sports Vice President of Programming **Xavier James**, "it will ideally be somewhere in the United States. **Seth Abraham** of Madison Square Garden has shown interest, but Las Vegas is probably the frontrunner" ... If **Lennox Lewis** decides to defend the heavyweight title against **Chris Byrd**, don't expect to have to shell out big bucks to see it. "That may not be a viable fight on pay-per-view," said James. "We'd probably look to do that on HBO" ... **Stevie Forbes** will defend his junior lightweight belt on FOX SportsNet on August 18, taking on mandatory challenger **David Santos**. It's a rematch to a September '00 fight that Forbes won via one-sided decision... Following successful surgery on May 30 to repair a torn ligament in his left hand, junior welterweight prospect **Ricardo Williams Jr.** is expected to return to the ring in September. ■

Williams: Back from surgery in September

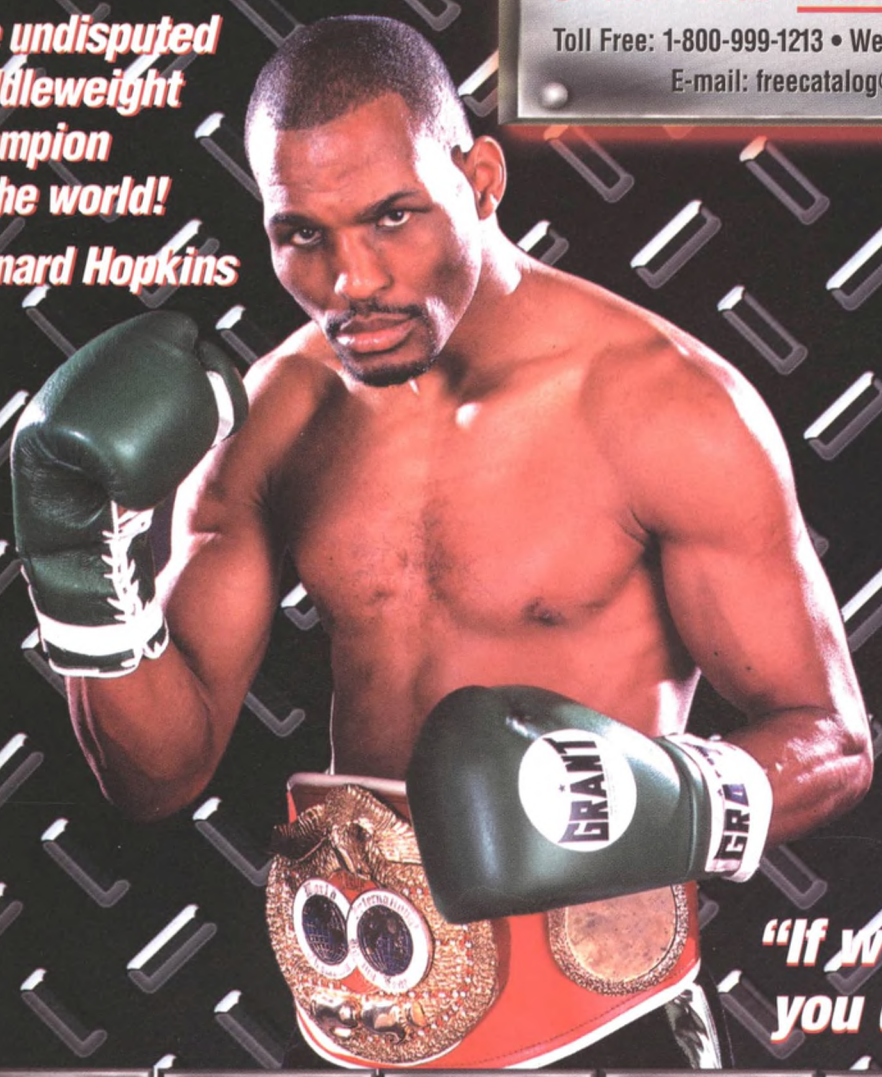
TITLE™ BOXING

2002 EQUIPMENT CATALOG

Order Your FREE Catalog Today

Toll Free: 1-800-999-1213 • Web site: www.titleboxing.com
E-mail: freecatalog@titleboxing.com

The undisputed middleweight champion of the world!
Bernard Hopkins



"If we don't have it, you don't need it!"

EVERLAST
ALL NEW PROLINE
SEE PAGES 74–83
WWW.EVERLASTBOXING.COM

TITLE Platinum
ULTIMATE EQUIPMENT
SEE PAGES 38–41
WWW.TITLEBOXING.COM

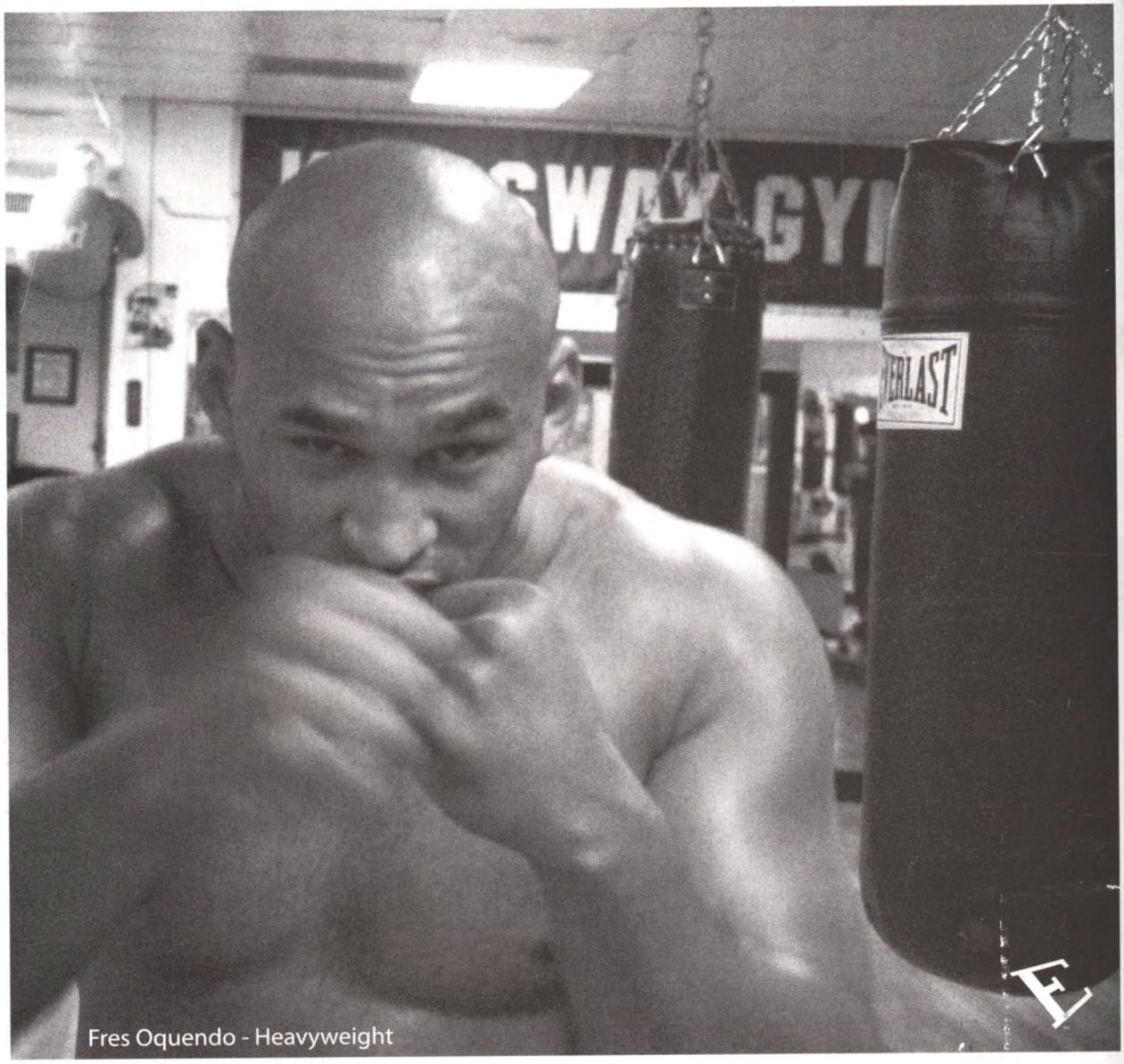
TUF-WEAR
WWW.TUFWEAR.COM
FULLY EXPANDED & STOCKED
SEE PAGES 158–162
WWW.TUFWEAR.COM

CLETO REYES
PROFESSIONAL
HECHO EN MEXICO
HECHO EN MEXICO
SEE PAGES 68–71
WWW.REYESDIRECT.COM

adidas
ALL NEW MODELS
SEE PAGES 152–153
WWW.TITLEBOXING.COM

GRANT
WWW.GRANTBOXING.COM
EXPANDED FOR 2002
SEE PAGES 3–15
WWW.GRANTBOXING.COM

ORDER TOLL FREE • 1-800-999-1213 • www.titleboxing.com



BOXING EQUIPMENT

EVERLAST

EST.1910

BRONX, NEW YORK

everlast.com